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HISTORY



**Operation Citadel
Of World War II**

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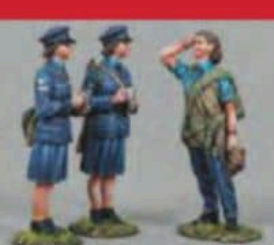
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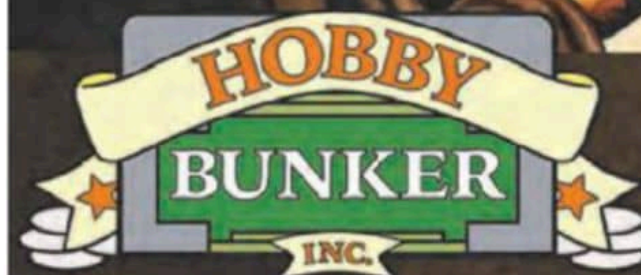


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Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of the world's No. 1 magazine for hobbyists who share a collective passion for all types of toy soldiers and historical figures. As always, this edition is jam-packed with news from our hobby's frontlines, reviews of recent releases, historical features with a toy soldier spin, stories with some wonderful personal touches and keen insights into modelling.

World War II's Operation Citadel of 1943 is analysed in depth by a historical feature penned by Guideline Publications' Managing Editor David Grummitt, who serves as editor of both *Military Modelcraft International* and *Fantasy Figures International* magazines. He explores how archival sources have helped historians move beyond the German and Russian foes' propaganda to provide a different narrative of the German offensive and the Battle of Kursk's impact on the Eastern Front in July 1943.

Toy soldier collector and maker Joe DeMarco musters figures for dioramas to recreate a circa 1912-13 Imperial German army wargame witnessed by Kaiser Wilhelm II, the General Staff and foreign observers. The writer shares illuminating research about the history of *Kriegsspiel* to set the stage for mustering miniature forces practicing the art of war on the brink of World War I.

Thanks to my understanding and very tolerant wife Sally, I have some toy soldiers on display in every room of our house except the bathroom, yet I am still running out of room. If we won the lottery, one of my dreams has been to buy a neighbour's home for a dedicated 'Stuseum' for my collection. Consequently, I am fascinated by frequent contributor Raymond E. Bell's 'Collector's Story' about how American Charlie Sinel actually bought a second home and turned it into a museum to house his impressive collection of

German-made Heyde sets and lots of other types of toy soldiers.

Harry Anderson takes inspiration from Japanese history during the Middle Ages to evocatively model a storytelling scenario about a formidable female samurai mourning her lord's death during the Genpei War. The historical era is different, but Harry's 'Tears of Heaven' article is timely because a new television limited series production of *Shōgun*, based on the 1975 novel by James Clavell, premiered on 27 February in the USA. Based on viewing the first two episodes, I can attest to how it's well-worth watching.

An article titled 'Lace Wars in Tin' is Steve Metherringham deep dive into wargaming with 40mm semi-flat soldiers moulded from a Seven Years War range produced by Prince August. He has a wealth of insight from being both an avid wargamer and working with the manufacturer on development of the range.

A.J. Mergenthaler recounts the origin and history of *Tercio de Extranjeros*, commonly known as the Spanish Foreign Legion, that has been involved in combat in North Africa, the Spanish Civil War and beyond. The writer musters some figures from his collection for illustration. I'd also like to trumpet this edition's intriguing instalment of expert James Opie's 'Talking Toy Soldiers' regular feature. This time he delves into how makers heralding plastic figures as being 'unbreakable' has turned out to be an oxymoron.

As usual, there is a whole lot more in store in this edition, including lots of news, reviews and how-to tips, so please start turning the pages and enjoy. And, as always, happy collecting!

All the best,
Stuart A. Hessney
Editor



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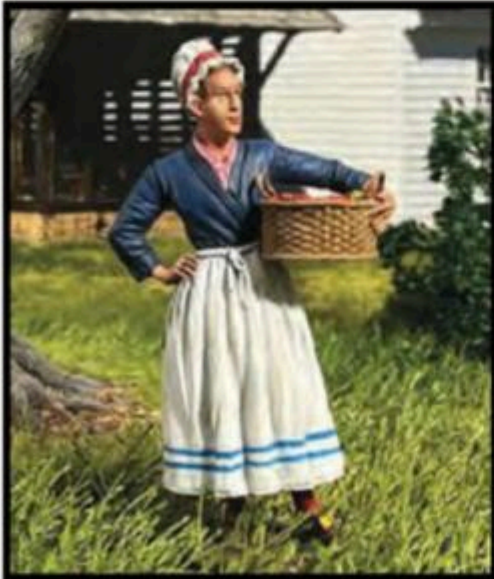
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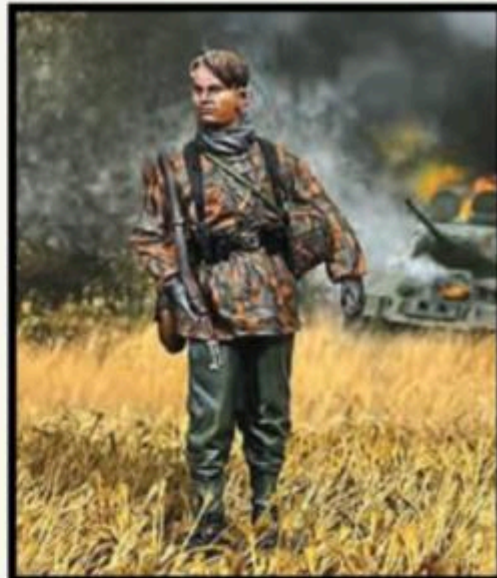
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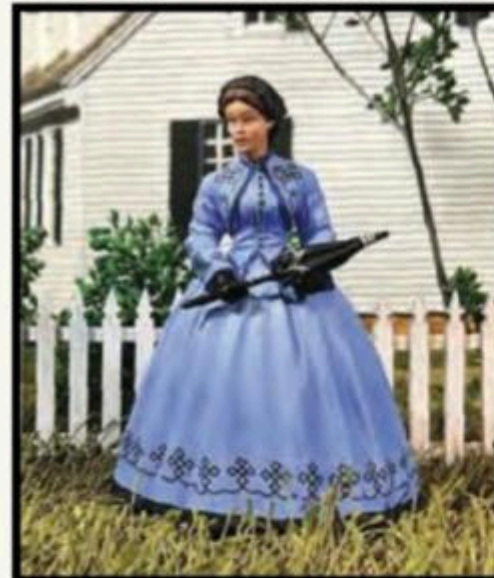
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Noticeboard

The latest news from across the hobby

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or alternatively write in to: Guideline Publications 6 Kensworth Gate, 200-204 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 3HS.

W. Britain Takes Over Its Own Worldwide Distribution

By Stuart A. Hessney

W. Britain Model Figures has cut ties with distributor Bachmann Europe plc to consolidate all worldwide operations at its US headquarters in Ohio. Kenneth A. Osen, the brand's president and creative director, announced the news in the third and final 2023 edition of *The Standard: The Exclusive Journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club*. This brand name that has become synonymous with toy soldiers celebrated its 130th anniversary last year.

Ken explained that this move stems from the evolution of an ongoing process to enhance the quality of wide-ranging W. Britain figures and accessories and continue to "innovate to remain relevant to our current collectors and entice new ones into this exciting hobby."

The toy soldier maker added, "We also recognise that the way we bring the product to market needed to be reconsidered to give the same quality of service to our customers worldwide.

After many years of a successful relationship, we are parting ways with our distributor, Bachmann Europe plc, to consolidate all distribution of W. Britain from our headquarters."

Ken said, "This streamlining of distribution will help control the cost of goods to ensure that the brand remains accessible to the largest number of collectors possible. This also means that more stockists – especially in the UK – will have a more complete and up-to-date

inventory on their shelves and available for purchase." "This direct relationship with the manufacturer will be beneficial to everyone involved allowing consistent policies and timely service worldwide," he added. "Now every collector can have new products soon after they arrive from our warehouse or check the status of availability on our website or by contacting us directly."

Ken Osen with a reenactor at a past Collectors' Club event in London.



One of Napoleon's Bicorns Sells for Millions at Auction

By Stuart A. Hessney

One of French Emperor Napoleon I's iconic bicorn hats sold for \$2.1 million US/ €1.932 million at the Osenat's auction house in Fontainebleau, south of Paris, on 17 November, 2023.

Napoleon is said to have had as many as 120 versions of his signature broad and two-cornered black hats made of black beaver pelts. According to the auction house, only

sixteen examples survive and most of them are in museums because of their historical significance.



This bicorn belong to French Emperor Napoleon I was sold for millions in November.

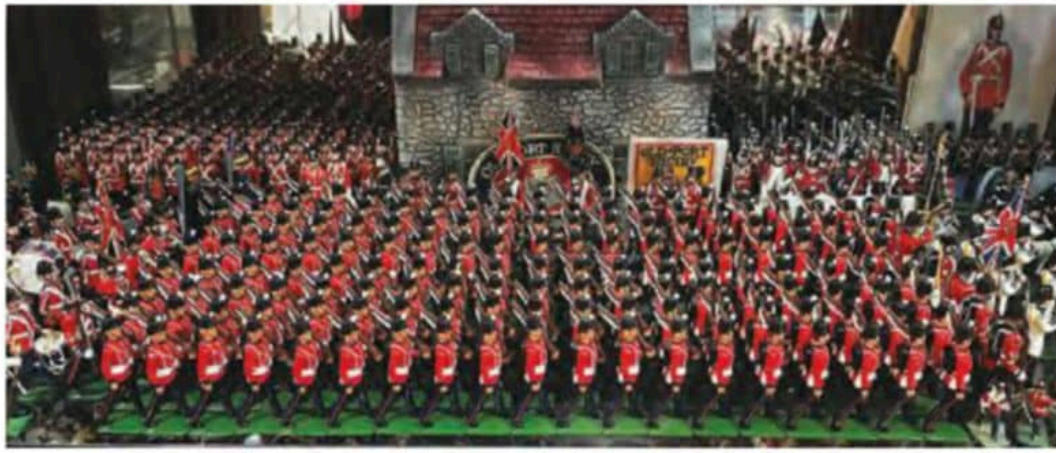
The emperor is believed to have worn this particular bicorn during the middle of his reign. He fixed a cockade to it in 1815 after returning to France from his exile on the isle of Elba, triggering the Hundred Days Campaign and his final defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

The bicorn sold in November came from French industrialist Jean Louis Noisiez's collection. Other items featured in the auction included Napoleon's vanity set and a handkerchief he used in exile on St Helena where he died at age 51 in 1821.

In 2018, a different bicorn was sold for more than \$400,000 in a sale arranged by the De Baecque auction house in Lyon, France. Those sellers noted that Napoleon usually had twelve hats in service at a time, each of which had a three-year lifespan.

The November auction being timed to coincide with the premiere of director Ridley Scott's epic movie *Napoleon*, starring Joaquin Phoenix in the title role, likely had something to do with the bicorn's actual hammer price doubling the presale estimate.

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Part of the editor's collection of Fort Henry Guards.

Update from the Shameless Self-Promotion Department

By Stuart A. Hessney

During my twenty-plus years as editor of *Toy Soldier & Model Figure* and *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures magazines*, I have made a conscious effort to try to stay out of the limelight and keep the spotlight shining squarely on all the makers generating new releases and contributors who share their interests in history, collecting and modelling with readers. Consequently, I sincerely feel a bit sheepish and guilty, as if I should owe an apology to readers, because this news item is about me!

I am a long-time member of Canada's Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS). As I reported in issue 114, the latter has launched its own YouTube channel to help connect and entertain collectors with wide-ranging interests. The dedicated and creative OMSS programme chairman and social media director, Mark Silverthorn, hosts, produces and regularly uploads brief and extended videos featuring varied guests and topics.

He originally enlisted me to do a video interview about *TSC&HF* and my role as its editor. Most recently in late February, he posted Part 2 of a series of interviews with me about my collection and some of my thoughts on collecting. Topics discussed include my great interest in collecting figures of Canada's Fort Henry Guard by various makers and my highly anachronistic display of Ancients highlighted by a Trojan Horse and the 'Walls of Troy' by LOD Enterprises.

In addition, I have been invited to be the guest speaker at the OMMS regular monthly meeting beginning at noon Sunday, 14 April, at Branch 643, Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Toronto (Etobicoke). I am excited because I have attended many editions of the club's On Parade annual show and competition staged in Toronto with the next one scheduled for 15 June, but the April trip will fulfil my long-held wish to attend a regular monthly meeting. You don't have to be a club member to attend, so I hope to see many friends and fellow hobbyists there! In case anyone is wondering, my planned topic is top secret.

On a related note, Mark has posted a very brief video that I jokingly call 'my first commercial' to promote the speaking engagement with an alluring voiceover provided by his wife Danielle.

Toy Soldier Manufacturer Plans Gettysburg Symposium

By Stuart A. Hessney

The Eighth Annual W. Britain Model Figures Symposium has been scheduled for Friday to Sunday, 2-4 August, at the World War II American Experience Museum and Education Center, 845 Crooked Street Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania USA.

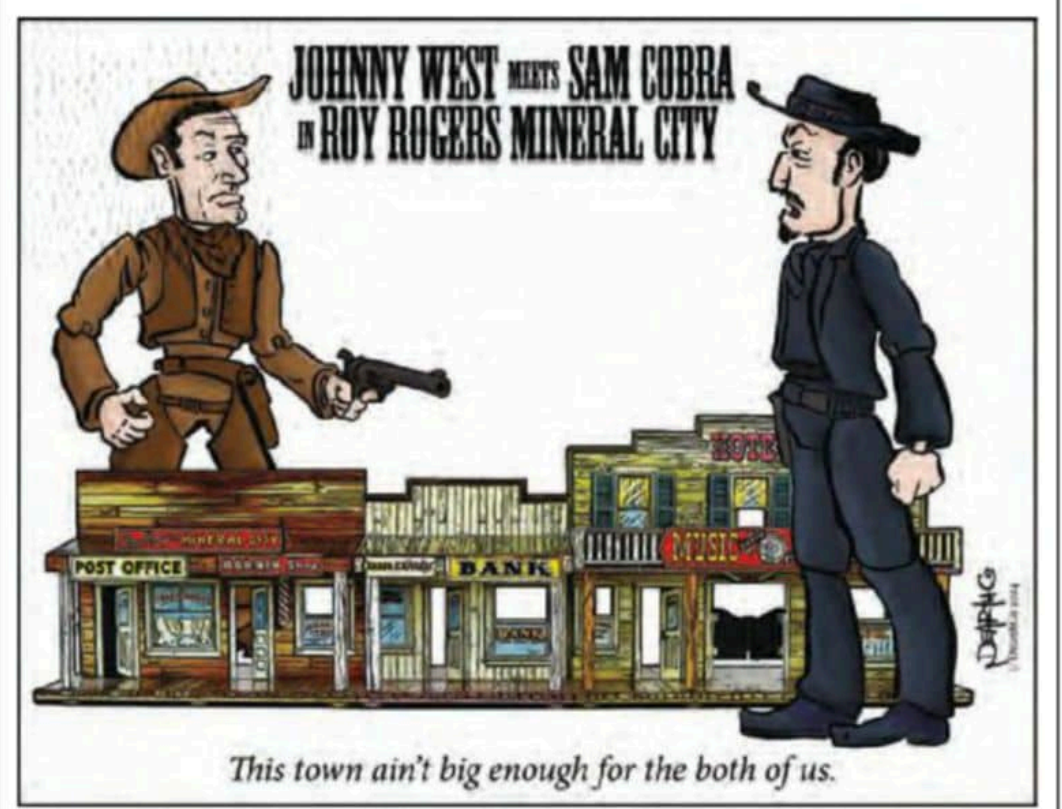
Events planned include a workshop on making a choice of either an American Civil War or World War II diorama on the Friday, a slate of symposium guest speakers and a dinner event on Saturday, and closeup looks at the museum's collection including a ride in a restored US tank on Sunday.

Guest speakers were still being confirmed at the time of this writing, but topics planned included the ACW, US Navy uniforms, the American Revolution and World War II. President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen's dinner talk is expected to include sneak peeks at upcoming releases. A block of rooms is available at a special event rate of \$149 US per night at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel. For updates and details, please visit the website at www.wbritain.com.



Participants created their own dioramas featuring an exclusive set titled 'Up and Over: Confederate Scaling Fence and Fence Section' at last year's W. Britain symposium in historic Gettysburg.

Cartoon by Doug Dearth



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New Releases

Our top-shelf team delivers news of new painted metal figures arriving on dealers' and collectors' shelves.



'Spartacus Thracian Gladiator'
(ref. ROM259).



'Gladiator School Owner'
(ref. ROM256)



**'Roman Matron,
Wife of Owner'**
(ref. ROM257).

First Legion Ltd.

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Eons of history are explored by a wide variety of highly animated, detailed and colourful recent releases from First Legion Ltd. This batch of artistic 60mm collectables complemented by skilful connoisseur-style paintwork encompasses everything from the glory of the Ancient Roman Empire to the gritty combat of World War II.

Ancient World

Ten new gladiatorial items make classic sword-and-sandal movies such as *Demetrius and the Gladiators* (1954), *Ben-Hur* (1959), *The Fall of the Roman Empire* (1964) and of course *Gladiator* (2000) spring to mind. First Legion is taking some inspiration from *Spartacus* (1960) starring Kirk Douglas in the title role with a gladiator school line-up that even includes a figure titled 'Spartacus Thracian Gladiator' (ref. ROM259). The dynamic sculpture holding

a sword and circular shield does not closely resemble the late actor yet it captures the character's fierce determination to prevail and survive.

Training is overseen by a demanding 'Gladiator School Owner' (ref. ROM256) assisted by the 'Roman Matron, Wife of Owner' (ref. ROM257), who both appear a bit in their cups of wine. Their armed and blue-clad security team in four poses includes a 'Senior Roman Guardian' (ref. ROM261), 'Roman Guardian Walking' (ref. ROM262),

'Roman Guardian Standing' (ref. ROM263) and 'Roman Guardian Marching' (ref. ROM264).

The Thracian's fellow types of fighters include the 'African Doctores' (ref. ROM258) and a 'Gallic Gladiator' (ref. ROM260). First Legion has even thought of producing a 'Gladiator Training Dummy' (ref. ROM265) for the men's workouts.

The above items are sold singly at prices ranging \$69.95 to \$89.95 for collectors like me fascinated by Ancient history. To display them in



'Senior Roman Guardian'
(ref. ROM261).

a diorama environment, spokesman Matthew Pavone revealed that First Legion is working on a modular 'Gladiator School' that would be its "first terrain piece in quite some time."



'Roman Guardian Walking'
(ref. ROM262).



'Roman Guardian Standing'
(ref. ROM263).



'Roman Guardian Marching'
(ref. ROM264).



'African Doctores'
(ref. ROM258).



'Gallic Gladiator'
(ref. ROM260).

Norse Raiders

Seafaring Vikings became feared for their bold and sudden raids on Britain to plunder coastal medieval monasteries and settlements and take captives to either hold for ransom or sell into slavery. This dreaded socio-economic dynamic, especially for women, is illustrated by a dramatic \$149.95 vignette titled 'Viking Carrying Prisoner: The Spoils of War' (ref. VIK031). The Norseman has his shield slung on his back, holds a sword with his right hand and uses his left arm to carry off a kicking and screaming buxom blonde.

Thirty Years War

Four command group figures have reinforced the maker's ongoing series inspired by the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). They include an \$89.95 'Spanish Tercio Senior Officer' (ref. TYW045) who looks rather flamboyant and an \$84.95 'Spanish Tercio Officer' (ref. TYW046) with an intense mien. Two different flag bearers priced at \$129.95 apiece recreate both the 'Tercio de Ambrosio de Spinola Standard' (ref. TYW047) and the 'Tercio Catholic League Standard' (ref. TYW048).



'Gladiator Training Dummy'
(ref. ROM265).

**Back view of the
Viking and his living
breathing loot.**



'Viking Carrying Prisoner: The Spoils of War' (ref. VIK031).



'Spanish Tercio Senior Officer' (ref. TYW045).



'Spanish Tercio Officer' (ref. TYW046).



'Tercio Catholic League Standard' (ref. TYW048).

Axis Forces

World War II subjects have been a mainstay for First Legion since its inaugural releases in 2008. The latest German forces recreate combat ranging from the desert of North Africa to the Soviet Union, while US armour is being deployed for the wintry Battle of the Bulge in Western Europe's Ardennes Forest region.

The Afrika Korps has been reinforced by an authentic Panzer III medium tank listed as 'Pzkwf III Ausf. L: 15th Panzer Division' (ref. DAK044). As usual from First Legion, this is a mixed media model with resin, metal, plastic, brass and photoetched

components. The commander's turret hatch opens and closes, the turret's machine gun is removable, both the radio antenna and the 7.5cm KwK 42 main gun's barrel can be raised or lowered, and the turret rotates. Excellent paintwork recreates realistic weathering on this \$325 model.

Nazi leader Adolf Hitler authorised the launch of Operation Edelweiss on the Eastern Front beginning on 23 July 1942. The German objective was to seize control over the Caucasus region and capture strategic oilfields in Azerbaijan. German forces captured the strategic port of Rostov-on-Don two

days later, but they were eventually compelled to pull back because they suffered setbacks and faced logistical difficulties as winter loomed and the Soviet Red Army's Operation Little Saturn offensive threatened to cut them off. These events happened around the same fateful time as 250,000 other German soldiers of the 6th Army became entrapped in Stalingrad.

First Legion has taken inspiration from this campaign to unleash six new figures representing Germany's 1st Mountain Division, known as Edelweiss. These men were tasked with seizing strategic positions while facing mountainous terrain, unfavourable weather and stiff Soviet resistance. The poses include an 'Officer' (ref. GERSTAL096),



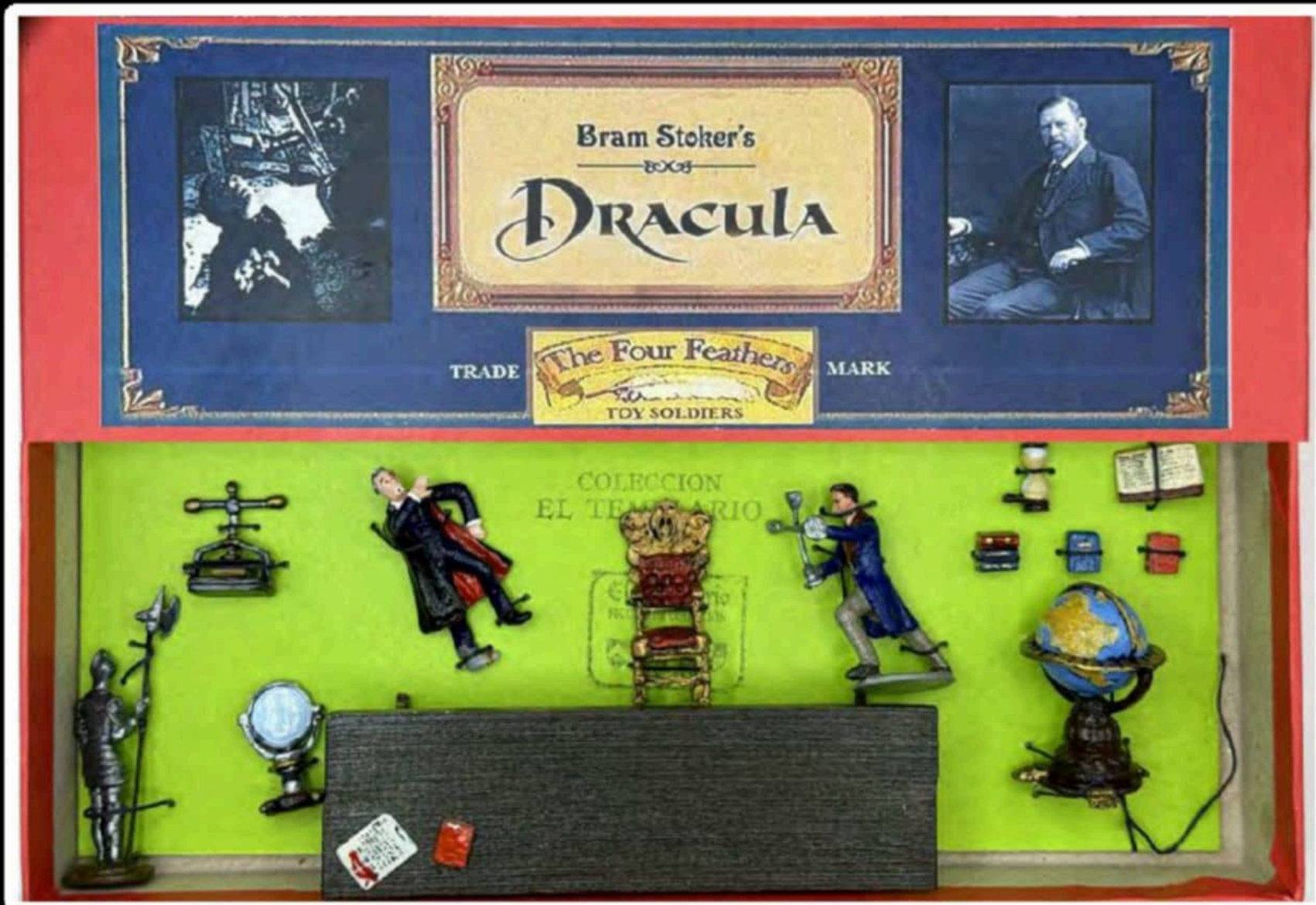
'Tercio de Ambrosio de Spinola Standard' (ref. TYW047).



Afrika Korps 'Pzkwf III Ausf. L: 15th Panzer Division' (ref. DAK044).

'Sniper' (ref. GERSTAL097) and radio operator (ref. GERSTAL101). Other men are either kneeling firing a 5cm Granatwerfer 36 light mortar (ref. GERSTAL098), advancing firing a MG34 (ref. GERSTAL099) or carrying mortar rounds (ref.

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'German Officer: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL096).



'German w/5cm Granatwerfer 36: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL098).



'German with MG34: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL099).

'German Radio Operator: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL101).



GERSTAL100). In a move exploited for propaganda purposes, a detachment raised the German flag on Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain in Europe and Russia, on 21 August, but this act was said to have made Hitler enraged for hours about what he called "crazy mountain climbers."

Hobbyists' miniature Battle of the Bulge recreations can be enhanced by a highly detailed model of a US Army M10 tank destroyer (ref. BB070). Despite the drawback of its vulnerable open-topped design, the effectiveness of its 3-inch gun in the hands of both British and American crews

proved effective in helping to bring Germany's surprise counteroffensive to a grinding halt. Priced at \$395, this model shares many of the same production techniques and high quality as the Panzer III. Crew figures are sold separately for either armoured vehicle.

My compliments to First Legion for recreating history in such breadth and depth with these eye-catching collectables.

'German with w/ Mortar Rounds: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL100).



'German Sniper: 1st Mountain Division Edelweiss' (ref. GERSTAL097).

Battle of the Bulge 'US Winter M10 Tank Destroyer' (ref. BB070).



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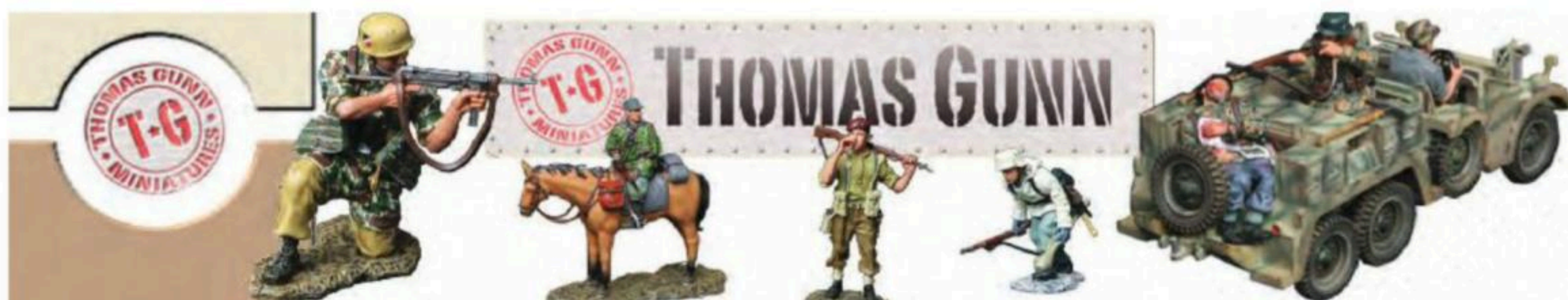
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World War II subjects have been a mainstay for First Legion since its inaugural releases in 2008.



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Little Legion Toy Soldiers

Napoleonic and British Colonial Wars

Reviewed by George Phillips

Mike Norris of Little Legion offers hobbyists a broad range of 54mm gloss-painted figures depicting warriors from some of the most 'collectable' conflicts in history. They include the Napoleonic Wars of 1803-1815 and the various British colonial wars of the late nineteenth century.

French Carabiniers

The latest offerings from the Welsh craftsman include a trio of Napoleonic French carabiniers. Carabiniers were horse soldiers armed with carbines – infantry muskets with a shortened barrels to make them lighter and easier to handle – and the name was derived from their weapon of choice. Each man was, of course, also armed with a cavalry sabre and pair of flintlock pistols.

The new figures are clothed in the authentic uniform of the French carabinier with a white tunic, white leggings, a steel cuirass covered with brass sheathing or copper sheathing for officers, and a helmet bearing a copper crest decorated with a chenille of scarlet bristle.

First up is a rider firing his flintlock pistol as he charges the enemy (ref. CARB/3). I like the detail of the carbine slung on his side as a backup



weapon, and the overall animation is good.

The final figure – my personal favourite – is pressing home the attack even though his ornate helmet has been blown from his head by enemy gunfire (ref. CARB/5). His helmetless

head reveals the authentic long sideburns of the period. With his sabre levelled at the enemy, the rider charges forward with a war cry on his lips.

All three of these eye-catching cavalymen are priced at £39.50.



Sudan Highlander

Next up is a wounded Gordon Highlanders officer from the Sudan campaign of 1885, armed with an Enfield service revolver. No doubt in the thick of close-quarters action, the officer is wounded on his right shoulder and has lost his headgear. Unfortunately, an officer's .476-calibre Enfield revolver lacked the stopping power of some later Army models, with a muzzle velocity of only 600 feet per second. For some perspective, that's about the same velocity as the average .22 pellet rifle in the UK. You had to be close-up and personal with your enemy to get the best from this weapon. The new figure is resplendent in a Gordon tartan kilt and is priced at £16. The product code data for this figure was among some unavailable at the time of writing.

Anglo-Zulu War

Switching from the Sudan to the British colony of Natal, Mike has released a standing firing Zulu to augment the assegai-carrying hordes in his existing range based on the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. The warrior's grey beard suggests an older man, possibly a tribal leader, who doesn't have the athleticism of a younger warrior, so his use of a British Martini-Henry rifle makes

sense. This figure sells for £14.40.

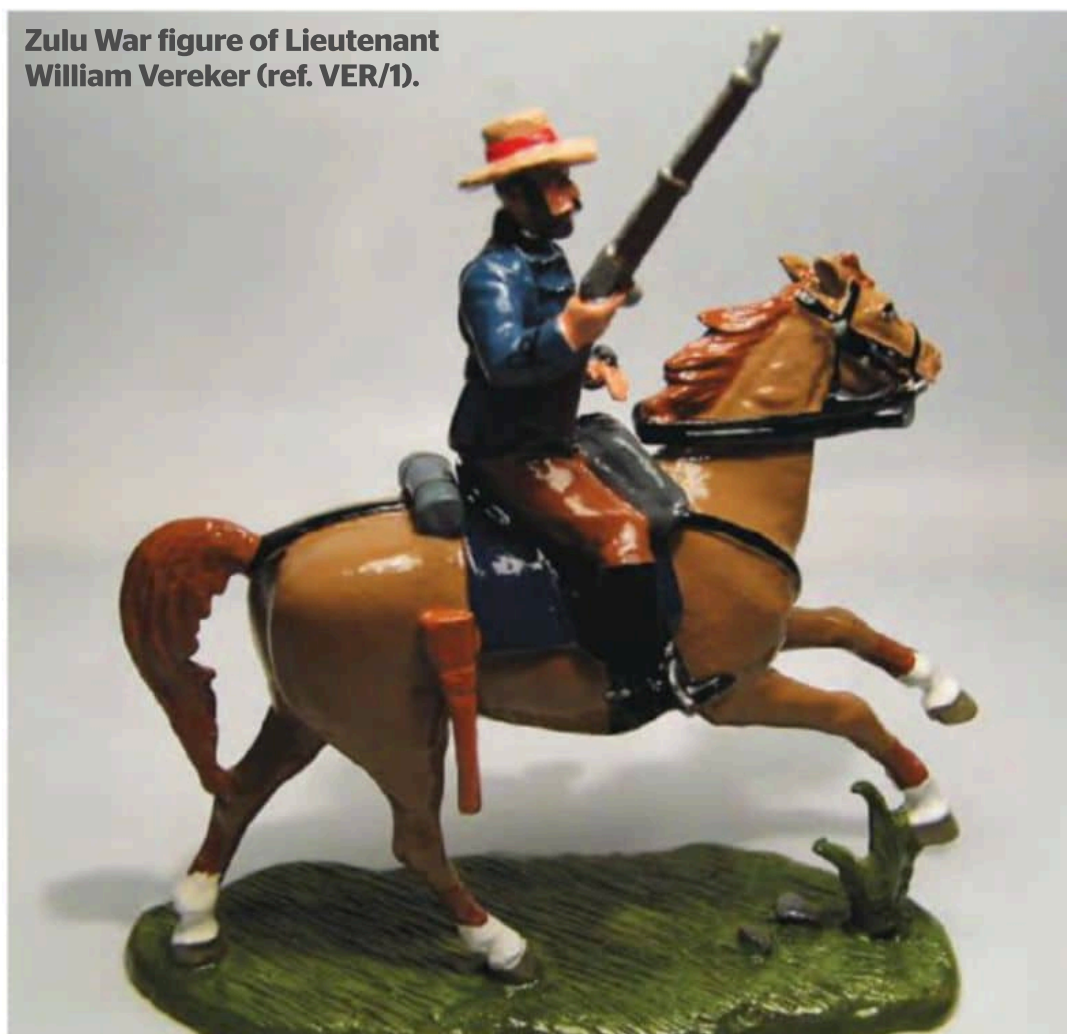
New Zulu War personality figures include a mounted depiction of Lieutenant William Vereker (ref. VER/1), the son of a member of the House of Lords. Vereker was a farmer in Natal but joined the British Army at the outbreak of hostilities. He was attached to Colonel Anthony Durnford's Natal cavalry unit and lost his life trying to help save the Queen's Colours at the disastrous Battle of Isandlwana on 22 January. Priced at £39.50, the figure of Vereker is nicely animated, and he wields his Martini-Henry carbine with a sense of purpose.

The other character figure portrays Henry William Longcast (ref. LC/1), a gifted linguist who served as an interpreter to both the British commanding officer, Lord Chelmsford, and Zulu King Cetshwayo during the conflict. Longcast is depicted in the uniform of a Natal horseman, armed with a cavalry carbine and pointing vigorously to ensure his words are fully comprehended. This original collectable piece is priced at £15.50.

Natal Native Horse

To boost the ranks of collectors' non-British opponents of the Zulu impis,

Zulu War figure of Lieutenant William Vereker (ref. VER/1).



Kneeling firing riflemen of the Frontier Light Horse (ref. FLH/1).

Mike has released a very nice six-figure set of dismounted riders from the Natal Native Horse (ref. NNH/2). The set includes two kneeling firing troopers armed with cavalry carbines, two standing firing troopers and a fellow who is loading a heavyweight .577-calibre round into the breech of his weapon. The

sixth figure is an officer armed with a revolver and sword. This group is competitively priced at £84.

Frontier Light Horse

Mike has also created a three-figure set of kneeling firing riflemen representing the Frontier Light Horse (ref. FLH/1). This hard-bitten mounted unit of around 250

volunteers was raised at King William's Town, Eastern Cape Colony, by Lieutenant Frederick Carrington in 1877. The light horse fought bravely in some of the fiercest engagements of the Zulu War, losing more than half their number by the end of the conflict. Two men were awarded the Victoria Cross.

The three kneeling figures are armed with cavalry carbines and wear the favoured leather ammunition bandolier of the time. This an extremely practical way of carrying large-calibre rounds while on horseback. This set retails at £42.75.

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Six figures make up the new Natal Native Horse dismounted set (ref. NNH/2).

King & Country Ltd.

Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

After taking the month of February off to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Hong Kong-based King & Country Ltd. kicked off March with a parade of interesting matt-finishes releases covering wide-ranging themes in 1/30 scale.

Terrific Temple

I think the highlight is 'The Ancient Egyptian Temple' façade (ref. AE106) that costs \$229 US. Cast from polystone, a combination of marble dust and resin, it features authentic architectural styling, iconography and hieroglyphics enhanced by atmospheric painting. This scenic item complements K&C series ranging from Ancient Egypt to many 1920s and 1930s figures centred upon the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb and even World War II clashes in North Africa.

For example, mystery novelist Agatha Christie's fictional character 'Miss Jane Marple' (ref. AE109) is the subject of a new \$49 figure portraying the amateur detective having newly arrived in Egypt to investigate

mysteries and unexplained deaths surrounding the discovery of King Tut's tomb.

World War II German Afrika Korps releases include portrayals of 'General Erwin Rommel', better known as the 'Desert Fox', available for \$52 in either 'Desert Uniform' (ref. AK151) or the standard white jacket of a 'Summer Uniform' (ref. AK152) complete with red stripes running

down the seams of his grey breeches signifying his senior rank. Reinforcements include two-figure sets of men carrying jerrycans and rolling a 50-gallon drum titled 'AK Water and Fuel' (ref. AK150) and a pair of 'Afrika Korps Staff Officers' (ref. AK153) to accompany Rommel on inspection tours. Either of those duos costs \$99.

Ancient World

K&C's biblical 'Life of Jesus' series has been expanded with a depiction of the 'Passion of the Christ' showing Roman soldiers crucifying him along with a pair of thieves nailed to two-beamed crosses. 'The Crucified Christ' (ref. LoJO58) graphically depicts him with a crude sign nailed above his head that reads 'This Is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews'. The same item is also available as a less brutal and bloody depiction of 'Jesus on the Cross' (ref. LoJO60). Either of those Jesus variants sells for \$55. The Bible's 'Book of Luke' identifies the other crucifixion victims as the good thief Dismas and the unrepentant Gestas, who form a \$99 set (ref. LoJO60).

Feedback from K&C cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson's 2023 trip to Australia and visit to the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney has inspired the launch of

'The Ancient Egyptian Temple' (ref. AE105) complements figures portraying the land of the Nile's Queen Cleopatra, Roman General Mark Antony and others.



'Miss Jane Marple' (ref. AE109).



'General Erwin Rommel (Desert Uniform)' (ref. AK151).



'General Erwin Rommel (Summer Uniform)' (ref. AK152).



World War II German 'AK Water and Fuel' set (ref. AK150).



'Afrika Korps Staff Officers' (ref. AK153).

a new civilian range based on everyday life in Ancient Rome. The inaugural figures include a humble 'Farmer' (ref. RnBO47) and 'The Wine Merchant's Wife' (ref. RnBO48) with each sold singly for \$45. She is serving a \$109 pair of seated 'Game Players' (ref. RnBO51) at an

establishment called 'Popina'. A \$219 set titled 'The Wine Drinkers' (ref. RnBO52) shows the proprietor offering an amphora of new wine to three patrons seated around a table.

As proven by K&C series such as the 'Streets of Old Hong' and the Victorian

'World of Dickens', buildings and scenery are crucial for creating appeal for collectors. When it comes to Ancient Roman streetscapes, K&C has teamed up with Australia-based Last Post Miniatures, a partnership between Frank Sultana and Sven De Braekeleir, the proprietor of

Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers. Andy related, "Although K&C also produces its own display items and buildings, in this particular case it made sense for Last Post to produce the structures and free us up to concentrate on the Roman civilians and our own accessories."

The results so far are three buildings with tile roofs priced at \$240 AU apiece. They are titled the 'Roman Wine Bar' ('Popina') (ref. BLD011), 'Roman Amphora Seller' (ref. BLD012) and 'Roman Shop' ('Taberna') (ref. BLD013). They are available directly from Last Post (www.lastpostminiatures.com.au). I've met Sven and Frank and they are great guys. Congratulations to them both on this special collaboration with K&C!

K&C's 'Passion of the Christ' display shows Roman soldiers crucifying Jesus along with two thieves nailed to two-beamed crosses.

'CRUCIFIXION' THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST





K&C's new Ancient Roman civilians and other items are paired with three different shop facades made by Last Post Miniatures.



The 'Roman Wine Bar' ('Popina') (ref. BLD011) is one of the three shops produced by the Australian partners behind Last Post Miniatures.

Hong Kong Figures

Time period-wise, K&C's more recent hometown series is titled 'Hong Kong All Our Yesterdays' and it recreates street life in the 1960s and 1970s. New additions include a \$69 'Young Girl with Baby Brother and Puppy' (ref. HKY014) and a \$45 'Shopping Amah' (ref. HKY015) employed by a Chinese household.

A \$49 figure of a 'Royal Hong Kong Police British Officer' (ref. HKY015) reminds me of

how taking a job as a police inspector is what originally brought Andy to Hong Kong in 1977. In case anyone is wondering, yes, I think there is a resemblance.

In other news, K&C has shared a sneak peek at future additions to its series based on the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and spotlighting its 1st 'Golani' Brigade in conflicts such as the Six Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Hong Kong 'Young Girl with Baby Brother and Puppy' (ref. HKY014).



CONTACT

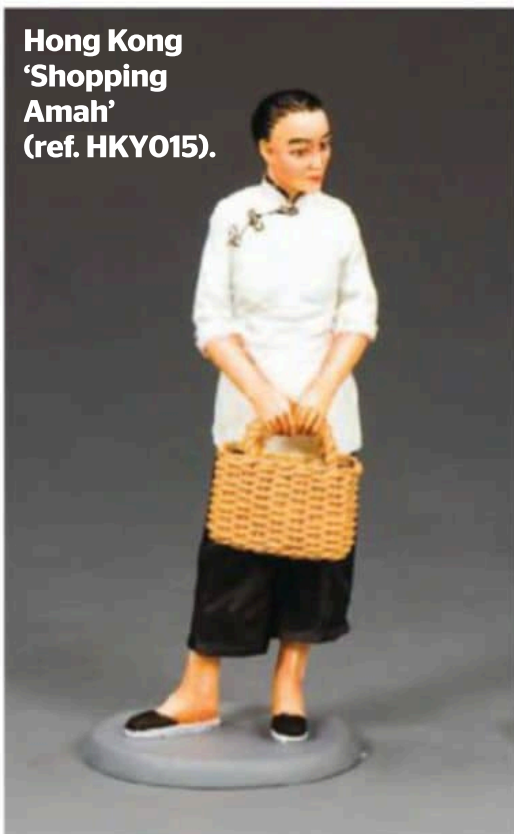
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Sneak peek at K&C's Israeli 1st 'Golani' Brigade figures planned for future release.

'Royal Hong Kong Police British Officer' (ref. HKY015) is reminiscent of the job that first brought Andy C. Neilson to the metropolis in 1977.



Hong Kong 'Shopping Amah' (ref. HKY015).



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Thomas Gunn Miniatures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Interesting recent 1/30-scale releases from Thomas Gunn Miniatures (TGM) chronicle everything from striking Ancient subjects to World War II and the Vietnam War with a lady's touch.

Ancient World

A watchful royal attendant and his sleek feline partner form an imposing cameo set titled 'Egyptian Guard with Cheetah: Number 2' (ref. EGYPT011B) that retails for £80/\$85 US. Proprietor Simon Thomas Gunn explained that his "second and last" version is being issued due to popular demand because the first one sold out quickly. The new bodyguard stands with his arms folded, while the annoyed big cat has an angrier facial expression that shows his teeth and displeasure.

The UK maker used his sense of humour when naming a Roman-era figure as 'Ambidextrous: The Gladiator/Mercenary' (ref. ROM169). The title reflects how the armoured fighting man wearing an eye-catching helmet and blue tunic is

wielding two swords. This figure could fit in well with TGM's gladiator series for arena action or serve as a mercenary in the Imperial Roman army. Please expect to pay £50/\$55 for this striking collectable.

Women Who Served

Three other new releases salute the valiant World War II service of real British women with fascinating back stories. They include a figure of pilot 'Joy Lofthouse' (ref. RAF006A), who was born in 1923 and died in 2017. She joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in December 1943 together with her sister Yvonne after seeing a magazine advert seeking women to learn how to fly for the British civilian organisation. Headquartered at White Waltham Airfield in Berkshire, the ATA ferried



'Ambidextrous: The Gladiator/Mercenary' (ref. ROM169).

new, damaged and repaired military aircraft just about anywhere one might think possible except to naval aircraft carriers. In addition, the pilots ferried service personnel and flew air ambulances.

Besides Brits, the ATA attracted volunteers from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa and the United States. Its 168 women ranked as about ten percent of all its pilots. They were nicknamed 'Attagirls' by the press. Beginning in 1943, they received pay equal to their male colleagues in a first for the British government. Joy and Yvonne were among only seventeen of 2,000 applicants accepted at the time. Joy had never even driven a car before, but

she went on to learn to fly eighteen different types of aircraft ranging from biplanes to Spitfire fighters and bombers. Seventy years after her final wartime flight as a pilot, she had a chance to fly a two-seater Spitfire in 2015.

Special Operation Executive

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) was created under the Ministry of Economic Warfare to perform secret espionage, reconnaissance and sabotage missions in occupied Europe and Southeast Asia. About 1,300 operatives from different nationalities, including 200 women, served until the SOE was dissolved in 1946. The location of its London headquarters led to their being known as the 'Baker Street Irregulars'.

TGM has saluted two of them in miniature: 'Yolande Beekman' (ref. RAF007A) and 'Yvonne Corneau' (ref. RAF007B). They are modelled in blue uniforms emblematic of how they served in both the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and the SOE. They stand holding cups of tea as if they are chatting before a training exercise. Corneau looks straight ahead, while Beekman

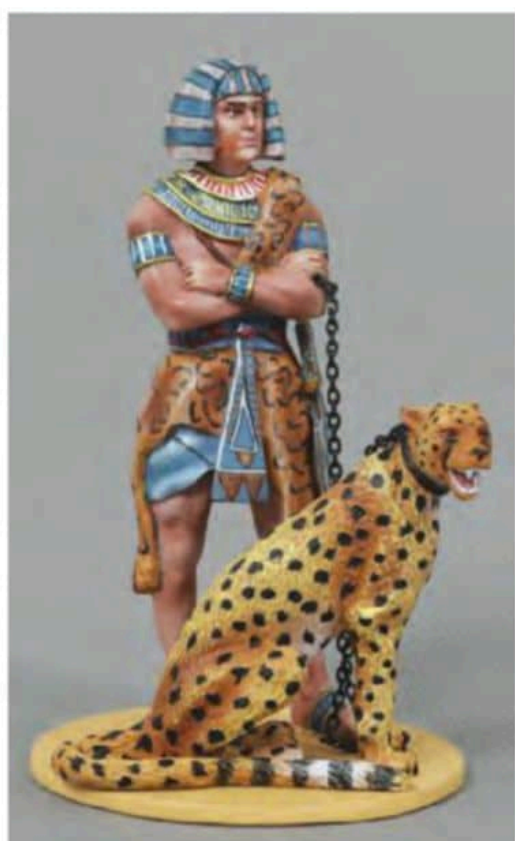


Ambidextrous: The Gladiator/Mercenary' pairs well with a previously released tiger.

'Egyptian Guard with Cheetah: Number 2' (ref. EGYPT011B).



A sense of intimidation is aroused by the 'Egyptian Guard with Cheetah: Number 2'.





The maker's tributes to real women who served during World War II include the SOE's 'Yolande Beekman' (ref. RAF007A) and 'Yvonne Cormeau' (ref. RAF007B) along with ATA pilot 'Joy Lofthouse' (ref. RAF006A) shown from the left.



Back view of 'Yolande Beekman' (ref. RAF007A) showing the Tommy gun slung over her shoulder.



Back view of 'Yvonne Cormeau' (ref. RAF007B).



ATA pilot 'Joy Lofthouse' (ref. RAF006A).

glances to her left and has a Thompson submachine gun slung over her shoulder.

Beekman was born to a Swiss father and English mother in Paris in 1911. She grew up in Paris and London and became fluent in English, French and German. During SOE training, she met and married Dutch Sergeant Jaap Beekman. After being flown into occupied France in 1943, she operated the wireless for Gustave Biéler, a Canadian in charge of the clandestine Musician network. The Germans used radio detection equipment to trace the signal and arrest Beekman and Biéler. He was executed on 5 September 1944. After being brutalised and tortured, Beekman and three other agents were executed at the Dachau concentration camp the following 13 September.

Cormeau was born in 1909 to a Scottish mother and a Belgian consular official. After being educated in Scotland and Belgium, she was living in London when she married chartered accountant Charles Emile Cormeau in 1937. He enlisted in the Army and was wounded in France before being sent home in 1940. Tragically, he was killed when their London home was

bombed by the Germans. Yvonne was saved by a bathtub that fell over her and protected her, but the blast killed her unborn baby. The widow sent her two-year-old daughter Yvette to the countryside for safety and decided to enlist to "take her husband's place in the armed forces" in 1941.

Cormeau served as an administrator at first, but the SOE recruited her due to her linguistic skills. She parachuted into occupied France on 22 August 1943. Cormeau proved to be an adept wireless signaller who could transmit up to 22 words

per minute compared to the average of only twelve. In spite of many dangerous missions and close calls, she survived the war.

The maker credits the quality of the preceding trio to the masters having been done by an unnamed "award-winning model painter." Each of these female figures retail for £50/\$55.

Please turn to this edition's 'Prize Exercise' for a chance to win an example of this trio courtesy of TGM.

Non-Regulation Dress

On a more salacious World War II front, TGM has

unwrapped topless and well-endowed German young women named 'Heidi' (ref. SS152A) with brown hair and 'Lilly' (ref. SS152B) with black hair. Either variant wears a helmet, trousers and boots, rests a MG34 on her shoulders, and has an ammo belt draped around her neck in a subtle way that supplies a smidgen of modesty.

Vietnam War American female versions wearing camouflaged helmets and the bottom halves of their jungle fatigues shoulder M60 machine guns. They include 'Annie's Got Her Gun' (ref. NAM002A) with brown hair and 'Machine Gun Kelly' (ref. NAM002B) with black hair. These ladies retail for £48/\$50 apiece.

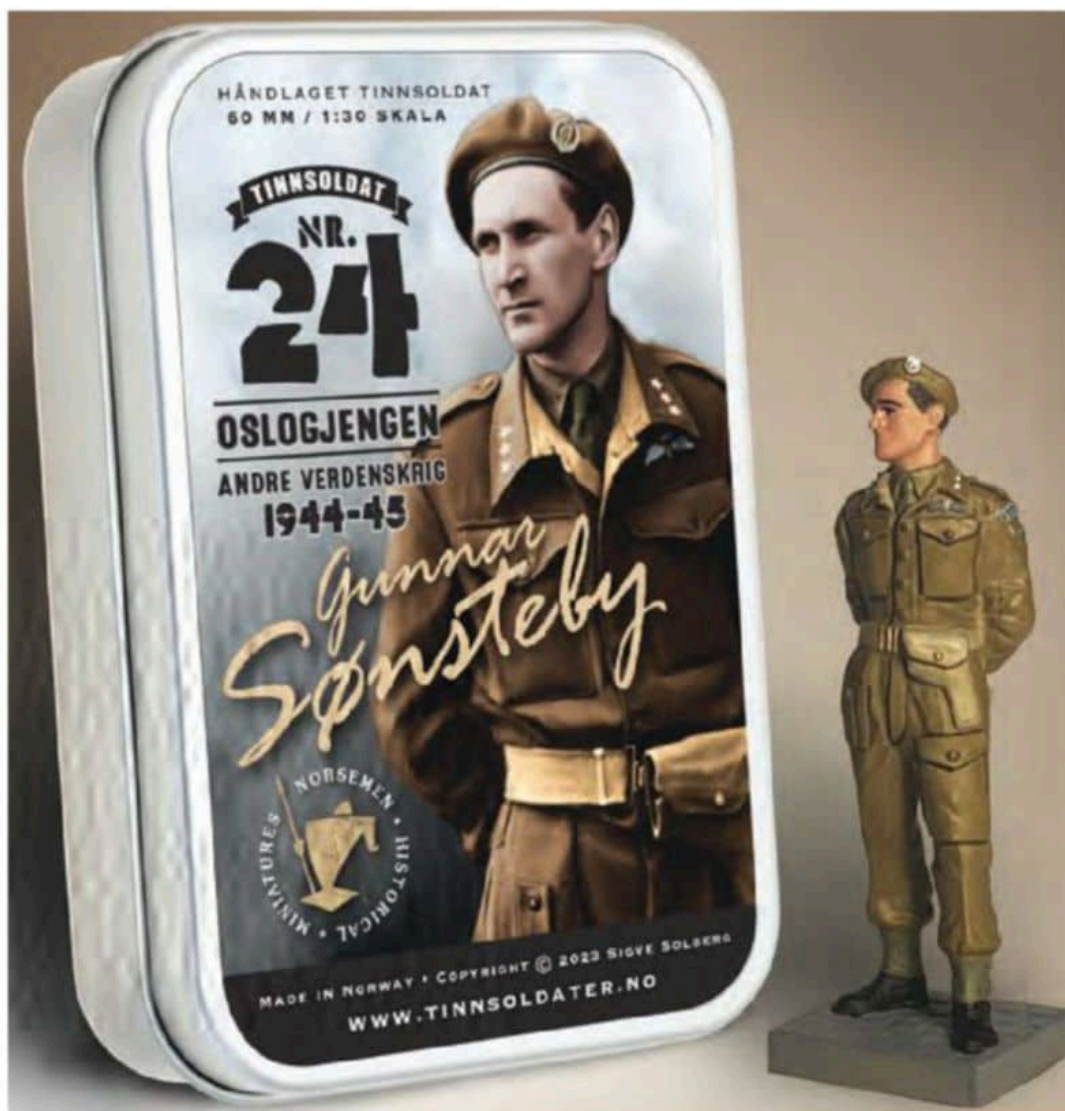
Vietnam War 'Annie's Got Her Gun' (ref. NAM002A) with brown hair.



Alternate view of the Vietnam War 'Annie's Got Her Gun' (ref. NAM002A) with brown hair.

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The figure of 'SOE Agent Gunnar Sønsteby/No. 24' comes in an illustrated metal box.



'Royal Guard Second Lieutenant 1940'.

Norsemen Historical Miniatures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

Regular readers of this magazine will know that Norway-based Sigve Solberg has the distinction of being the sole commercial toy soldier maker in his home country. A fan of military miniatures since his youth – and an avid collector as an adult – Sigve has been making and selling his own 60mm figures since 1997 in response to a dearth of toy soldiers representing the history of Scandinavia.

Norwegian units that engaged German invaders during World War II feature strongly in Sigve's product range, and the first new releases are additions to that series.

SOE Agent Sønsteby

Gunnar Fridtjof Thurmann Sønsteby was a resistance fighter who joined Norwegian forces in the defence of his country in 1940. The following year, he made his way to Sweden, where he encountered the British Special Operations Executive (SOE). However, transport to England for training was not possible at that time. Nevertheless, Sønsteby carried on supporting resistance efforts and suffered severely frozen legs in a failed attempt to get to Ålesund for transport across the North Sea.

After narrowly escaping

arrest by the Gestapo in April 1943, Sønsteby returned to Sweden and was finally able to slip away to England. Two months later, he was recruited for the *Kompani Linge*, a Norwegian commando unit named after one of this first commanders, Captain Martin Linge.

Sønsteby parachuted into Norway during October 1943 to lead a sabotage group called *Oslogjängen*. The unit's first mission was to blow up the punch card machines and buildings used for conscripting Norwegian youths into the German National Labour Service. The group was involved in

other large-scale sabotage operations in 1944, along with assassinations of occupying German troops and Norwegian collaborators including Karl Marthinsen, the head of the Norwegian State Police.

Also known as 'No. 24' due to one of his cover names, Sønsteby became Norway's most decorated citizen and the only recipient of the Military Cross with three swords.

Norsemen's depiction of Sønsteby is well proportioned and stands relaxed in a British-style khaki uniform. Priced at £32.74, the figure is supplied in a collectable

illustrated tin with a leaflet describing his role in the conflict.

Royal Guards

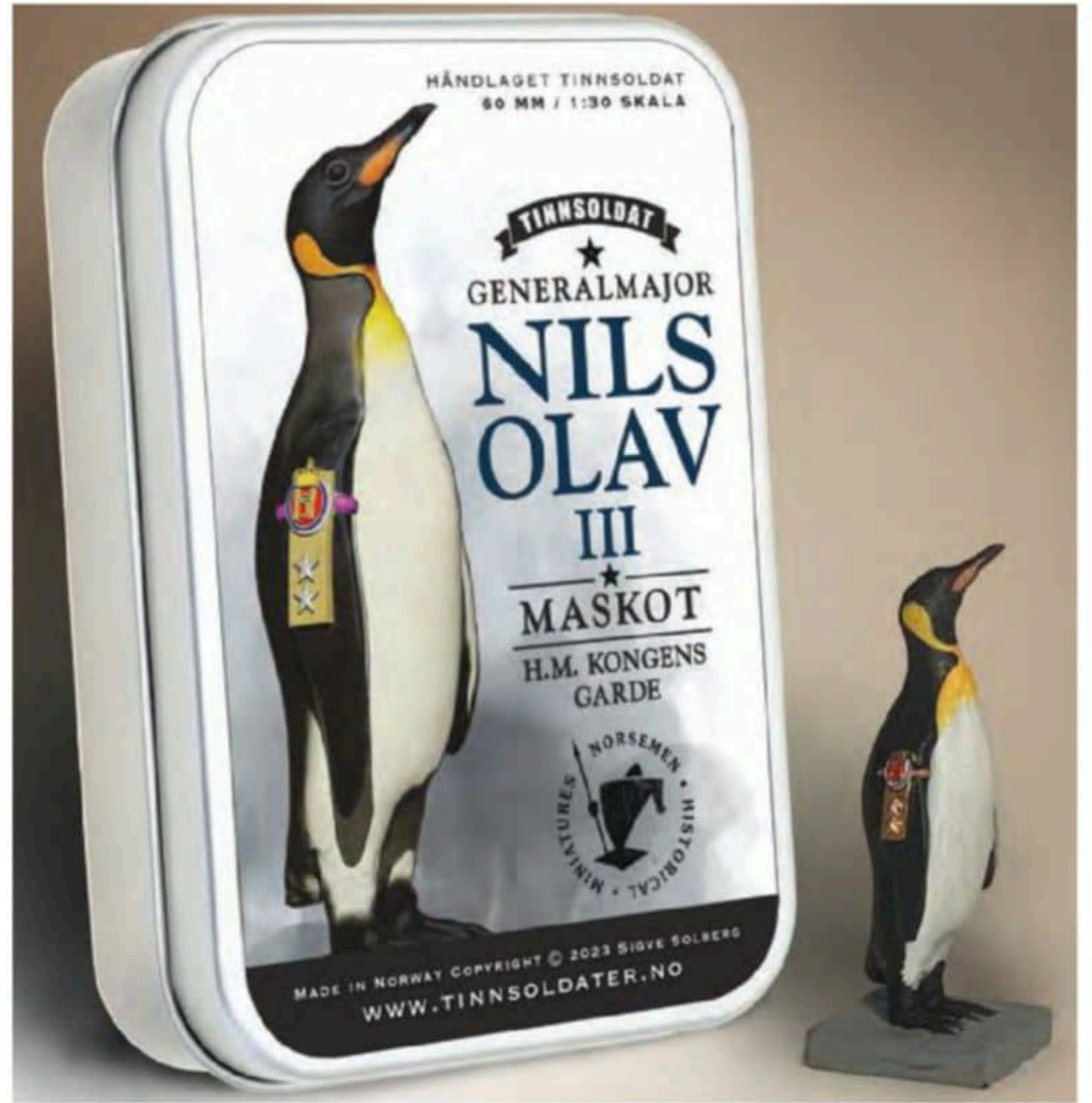
After Nazi Germany invaded Norway in April 1940, soldiers of His Majesty The King's Guards traded their ceremonial role for that of staunch and resourceful defenders of the realm.

The 1st Company of the regiment was located at Terningmoen at the outbreak of war and it protected the royal family during the battles at Midtskogen and Lundehøgda.

Midtskogen was a skirmish between Norwegian Guards and German forces during the attack on Norway in April 1940. The Germans set out to capture King Haakon VII and members of the Norwegian government but were thwarted. Fighting at the Midtskogen farm ended with the German forces retreating



'Royal Guard Rifleman 1940'.



'Royal Guard Major General Nils Olav'.

with dead and wounded.

Lundehøgda was the scene of several skirmishes between Norwegian and German forces during the same month. Here, the Norwegian guardsmen were at their lethal best, with the Germans dubbing them 'The Black Devils' due to their dark uniforms. The Guards' efforts to stop the enemy helped the king, his family and members

of the government to flee to Britain and set up a war cabinet in London.

Sigve's circa 1940 depictions of the guardsmen are all business. A private wearing a snow smock over his black uniform is taking careful aim with his Krag-Jørgensen rifle. A second lieutenant, who is sharply dressed in his black and grey uniform, is lining up the

sights of his 9mm Browning pistol on a luckless German invader. Each figure comes in a collectable box with a leaflet and are priced at £32.74.

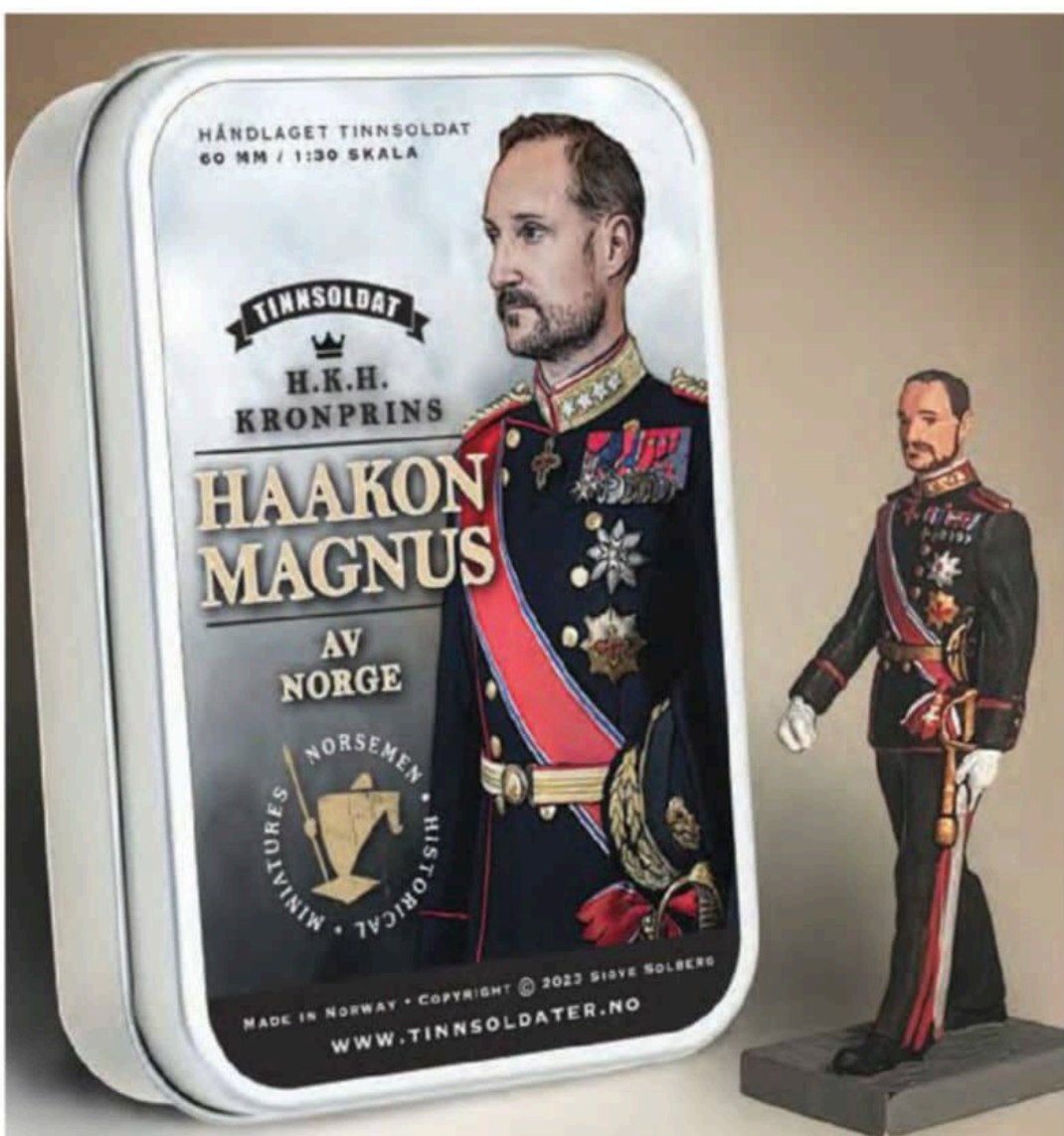
Penguin Mascot

Sir Nils Olav III is a king penguin who has become the official mascot of His Majesty The King's Guards. The first creature was adopted by the Norwegian regiment in 1972 after its soldiers became interested in the Edinburgh Zoo's penguin colony while participating in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. During the ensuing years, the various penguins who have held the title have been promoted from corporal to major general. The beautifully rendered model of this high-ranking seabird is priced at £26.78, and it comes complete with an illustrated tin and information leaflet.

Cathedral in 2001 and they have two children.

Haakon graduated from the Norwegian Naval Academy in 1995 and served in the Royal Norwegian Navy onboard missile torpedo boats and other navy vessels. Prince Haakon holds the rank of general in the Norwegian Army, admiral in the Norwegian Navy and general in the Norwegian Air Force. Every year the crown prince travels abroad accompanied by Norwegian delegations to strengthen bilateral relations within trade and industry, science and culture.

Depicted in full ceremonial uniform, the Norsemen figure of the prince is also supplied in an illustrated metal box with an information leaflet and retails at £37.20.



'Crown Prince Haakon of Norway'.

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Crown Prince Haakon

Crown Prince Haakon, son of King Harald V and Queen Sonja was born in 1973 and is heir to the Norwegian throne. He married Miss Mette-Marit Tjessem Høiby in Oslo

Alexanders Toy Soldiers

Nile Wars British Forces

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Two distinctly UK historical themes are heralded by groups of Royalists from the British Civil Wars and Napoleonic 95th Rifles released by Alexanders Toy Soldiers (ATS).



Examples of the new British Civil Wars Royalists.

ECW Royalists

The British Civil Wars were waged between 1642 and 1651 as Royalist adherents of King Charles I clashed with supporters of Parliament known as Roundheads, and their Scottish allies. Three separate conflicts involving machinations and outright warfare led to the king's execution in 1649. The monarchy was replaced by the Commonwealth and then the Protectorate of England under Oliver Cromwell. After the slain monarch's son King Charles II returned from exile

in continental Europe in 1660, the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy took place in the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. Nikola Biberovic, the craftsman behind this UK brand, has delved into a phase of the conflict when Charles I could not secure London and decamped to Oxford to make it his capital. This resulted in the formation of the Royalists' scarlet-clad first Oxford Army of 1642 that ATS has recreated with 54mm foot soldiers.

The miniature King's

Guards come in ten different credible poses including an officer holding his sword, a sergeant gesturing to his men, a drummer, and varied pikemen and musketeers. Their product codes are refs. OX01-OX10 and each costs £19.50. They can be nicely complemented by a Royalist standard bearer priced at £40.25.

Napoleonic Wars

Nik's first group of 95th Rifles in action against French foes during the Napoleonic Wars portrayed them in light order.

Now his latest variants show them in full kit marching order complete with backpacks. They include a sergeant, bugler and six other different action poses with Baker rifles sold singly for £19.50 with their product codes ranging between refs. 95TH16-95TH29. A vignette portraying a rifleman kneeling to check a wounded comrade costs £45. Alternatively, a collector can recruit this entire dynamic group in full kit (ref. 95TH25) for the rather reasonable sum of £200. These figures should hold great appeal not only to collectors of Napoleonic figures but also to fans of the dramatic Sharpe television series starring Sean Bean that was based on novelist Bernard Cornwell's series of books.



ATS figures of the 95th Rifles in full marching order.

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Two views of 'Ingrid in World War II' (ref. WW 239).



Alternate views of 'Anna on the Western Front' (ref. WW 240).

Kronprinz Toy Soldiers

Nazi Women and Poirot Characters

Reviewed by George Phillips

The Kronprinz Toy Soldiers catalogue expands on a monthly basis as Emilio and Carmen Arredondo reinforce the ranks of the miniature armies they produce. Their collectables range from Ancient Macedonian phalanx warriors to modern-day military and security forces. In addition to its historical armies, Kronprinz is increasing its output of models depicting civilian life in periods covered by its ranges.

Nazi Germany

First up is a series of German women in 1/30 scale doing the straight-armed Nazi salute. These five figures are part of Kronprinz's new World War II-era civilians range. It's not difficult to imagine how well they would work placed alongside a column of marching infantrymen and vehicles in a parade-style diorama.

The first figure is titled 'Ingrid in World War II' (ref. WW 239). The young woman's chestnut brown hair has an authentic 1940s-style and she wears a period-accurate light blue jacket and polka dot navy pencil skirt. 'Anna on the Western Front' (ref. WW 240) depicts an older woman dressed in a purple suit and wearing a black

brimmed hat bound with a red ribbon. She holds a black leather clutch bag in her left hand while giving a vigorous Nazi salute with her right arm. The third figure in this series is titled 'Isabella Berlin 1939' (ref. WW 241). She is a brown-haired woman dressed in a canary yellow suit with a leather clutch bag.

A young woman in a blue jacket and grey skirt has been dubbed 'France 1942 Eva' (ref. WW 242). Lastly, 'Munich 1939 Gerda' (ref. WW 243) is modelled as an Aryan maiden in a terracotta-coloured suit.

These saluting figures are sold singly for €33 or you can buy all five 'Girls During WWII' as a set (ref. WW 244) for €130.



'Isabella Berlin 1939' (ref. WW 241).

Poirot and Company

The other new group of figures also technically portrays 'civilians', but they've been lovingly created to depict some of the characters created by legendary English detective novelist, Dame Agatha Christie, also known as the 'Queen of Mystery'. They are the first in a new addition to the Kronprinz catalogue titled the 'Film, Theatre and Television Collection'.

Before her death at age 85 in 1976, Christie penned an incredible 66 detective novels and fourteen short story collections, many featuring the two fictional detectives for which she is best known:

Hércule Poirot and Miss Marple. In 1971, Christie was made a dame of the British Empire (DBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists her as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, with her novels having sold more than two billion copies worldwide. Emilio is a great fan of Christie and admits that the inspiration behind this new series is rooted in his admiration for the characters she created, especially Poirot. "I love the cleverness and insight that Poirot demonstrates in his cases, and I wanted to capture that essence in my figures," Emilio said.

It seems appropriate to begin with a glimpse of the 1/30-scale 'Hércule Poirot' (ref. CINE 006).

In Christie's 1920 novel *The Mysterious Affairs at Styles*, she describes the diminutive Belgian detective: 'He was hardly more than five feet four inches but carried himself with great dignity. His head was exactly the shape of an egg, and he always perched it a little on one side. His moustache was very stiff and military.'

Kronprinz's rendering of Poirot is extremely well-observed. The figure is

'Kronprinz's rendering of Poirot is extremely well-observed. The figure is impeccably dressed, clutches a walking stick and notebook in his leather-gloved hands, and it has the character's distinctive upturned moustache. Though some details are minute in this scale, he is immediately recognisable.'

impeccably dressed, clutches a walking stick and notebook in his leather-gloved hands, and it has the character's distinctive upturned moustache. Though some details are minute in this scale, he is immediately recognisable.

Poirot's best friend and companion-chronicler, Captain Arthur Hastings,

OBE, has also been rendered in miniature (ref. CINE 008) and looks relaxed, but alert in a period-style light grey suit and trilby hat. Hastings was introduced in the same 1920 novel and appeared alongside Poirot in seven other novels, a play and a series of short stories.

Next up is a character figure of Inspector James

Japp (ref. CINE 007), who was also introduced into Christie's fictional universe in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. The ferret-like Japp is said to have been inspired by the fictional police detective Inspector Lestrade, who appeared in the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. While keen at first to jump to the most obvious conclusion when it comes to solving a crime, Japp eventually learns to admire Poirot's meticulous nature and they become good friends. The well-proportioned Kronprinz model wears a stereotypical detective's raincoat over his brown three-piece suit.

A more feminine presence in the new range is provided by a character figure of 'Miss Felicity Lemon' (ref. CINE 009), Poirot's sharp-minded and eminently practical secretary. He describes her as 'unbelievably ugly and incredibly efficient but concedes that anything she mentions as worth consideration was usually worth consideration'.

Figures from this new range would make a terrific gift for any Poirot aficionado and they could also be repurposed as civilians in World War II dioramas. At €34 each, they won't break the bank.



'Hercule Poirot' (ref. CINE 006).



'Captain Hastings' (ref. CINE 008).



'Inspector James Japp' (ref. CINE 007).



'Miss Felicity Lemon' (ref. CINE 009).



'France 1942 Eva' (ref. WW 242) is shown in two views.



Views of 'Munich 1939 Gerda' (ref. WW 243).

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'Joan of Arc' (ref. 10092).



'Rogers' Rangers Private, 1758' (ref. 16200).

W. Britain Model Figures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Everything from a French patron saint to eighteenth-century foes modelled after artwork, civilian themes to World War II Germans and a whole lot more have been unveiled by W. Britain Model Figures. The vast majority of these thoroughly researched figures are sculpted in 1/30 scale and they are painstakingly matt-painted in lifelike ways, but there are a few glossy toy soldiers in store that salute this brand name's 130-year history too.

Joan of Arc

The latest addition to the maker's 'Museum Collection' evocatively depicts French heroine 'Joan of Arc' (ref. 10092) dressed like a man in armour while holding both her sword and her battle banner. The teenager claimed to be acting upon divine guidance from archangels when she took up arms against English foes during the Hundred Years War. She achieved the pinnacle of her military success by helping to lift the Siege of Orléans in 1429. This strategic victory at the height of English

power helped French forces gain the initiative and they began recapturing territories that had been lost to their enemies. Joan also insisted on the coronation of King Charles VII of France. Eventually the seemingly unlikely heroine was captured, tried for heresy, forced to renounce wearing men's clothes, abused and kept in chains. The nineteen-year-old prisoner was burned at the stake in Rouen on 30 May 1431, and then her remains were tossed into the Seine River. The English and their Burgundian allies were

overjoyed by the demise of their nemesis, but she was declared as a Catholic saint who is revered as saviour of France.

This stunning personality figure costs \$58 US.

Art in Miniature

Two French and Indian War foes have reinforced W. Britain's series of 'Clash of Empires' releases from the series based on the 'The Art of Don Troiani.' A green-clad 'Rogers Rangers Private, 1758' (ref. 16200) represents a small but effective Colonial unit whose exploits became the



Don Troiani's original artwork of the Rogers' Rangers private.

stuff of legend between 1755 and 1763. Their opposition is represented by the 'French Fusilier Regiment Berry, 1758' (ref. 16201). After being shipped to North America, two battalions of the understrength regiment experienced their first major test during the Marquis de Montcalm's successful defence of Fort Carillon in 1758.



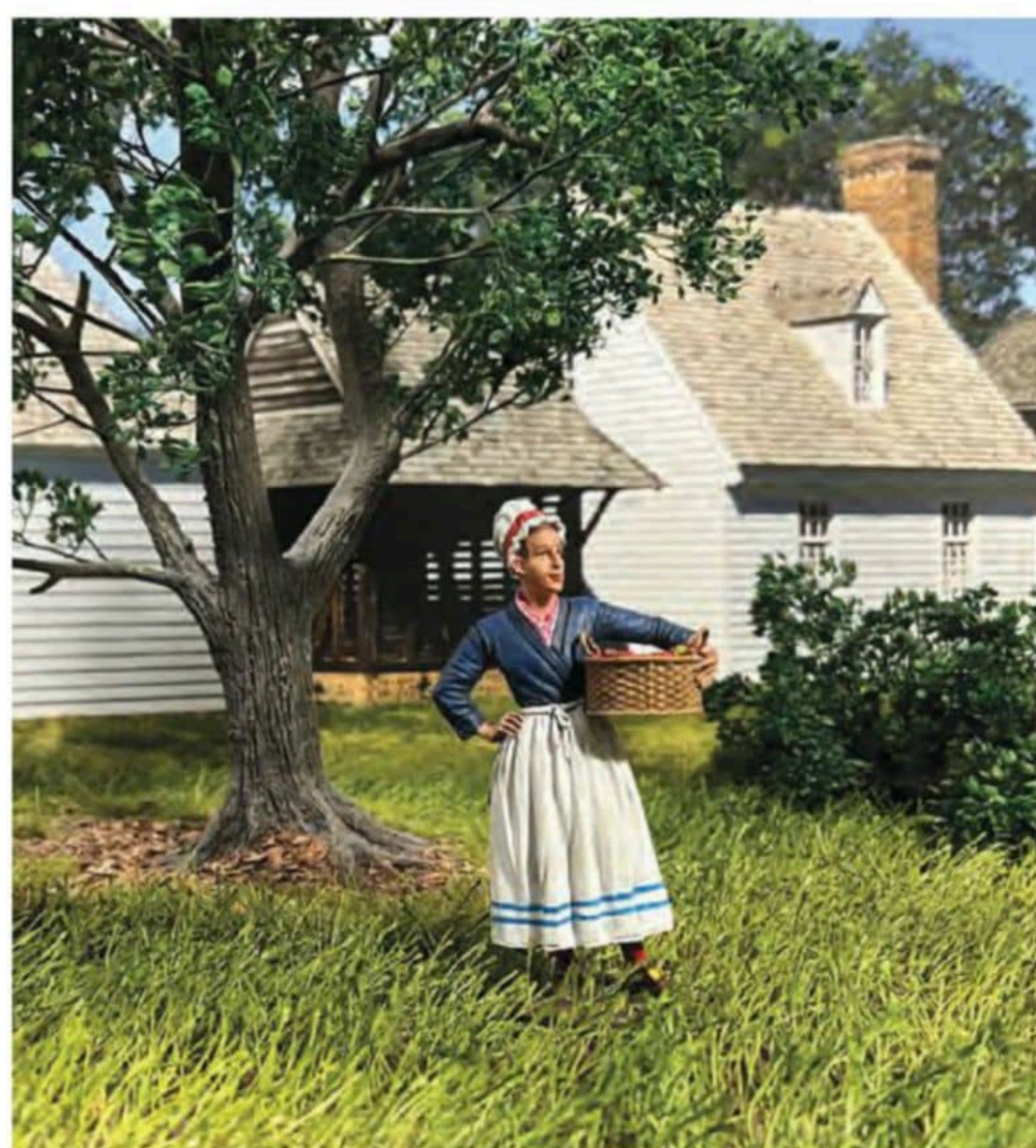
'French Fusilier Regiment Berry, 1758' (ref. 16201).



French fusilier artwork by Don Troiani.



Back view showing details of the clothing worn by 'Mary with Fresh Strawberries: Late 18th Century Woman with Basket' (ref. 35050).



'Mary with Fresh Strawberries: Late 18th Century Woman with Basket' (ref. 35050).



'Clean Linens Woman with Laundry, 1855-68' (ref. 35051).

Priced at \$52 apiece, these are both quite striking and realistic figures. I particularly like how the Frenchman is holding a clay pipe. The white cockade of France appears on the left side of his felt tricorne hat, and he is faithfully modelled in a white wool coat, vest and knee breeches worn with high linen gaiters. My only moan is how W. Britain did not make this duo on campaign look a bit more in need of haircuts and shaves like Troiani did.

Village Green

New entries in the civilian 'Village Green' range include 'Mary with Fresh Strawberries: Late 18th Century Woman with Basket' (ref. 35050). This bearer of fresh fruit is made all the sweeter by the all-around authenticity of her detailed attire.

I learned something new from the backstory of 'Vivian with Clean Linens: Woman with Laundry, 1855-68'. The maker's 'trading card' accompanying the figure

explains how open areas called 'bleachfields' were routinely used for spreading cloth on the ground for it to be purified and whitened by natural sunlight. They became obsolete after bleaching powder based on chlorine was developed by Charles Tennant so that fabric could be processed indoors year-round.

Either woman is priced at \$48, while a 'Yoke of Oxen' (ref. 35054) costs \$78. It is a realistic duo, but they aren't hitched to anything such as

a wagon or artillery piece but knowing my friends at W. Britain they already have something in the works for this powerful team to haul.

World War II

In 1942, German dictator Adolf Hitler renamed his infantry units as 'grenadier' regiments as a historical homage to Prussian King Frederick the Great's eighteenth-century shock troops. Now W. Britain has unleashed a half-dozen World War II grenadiers in



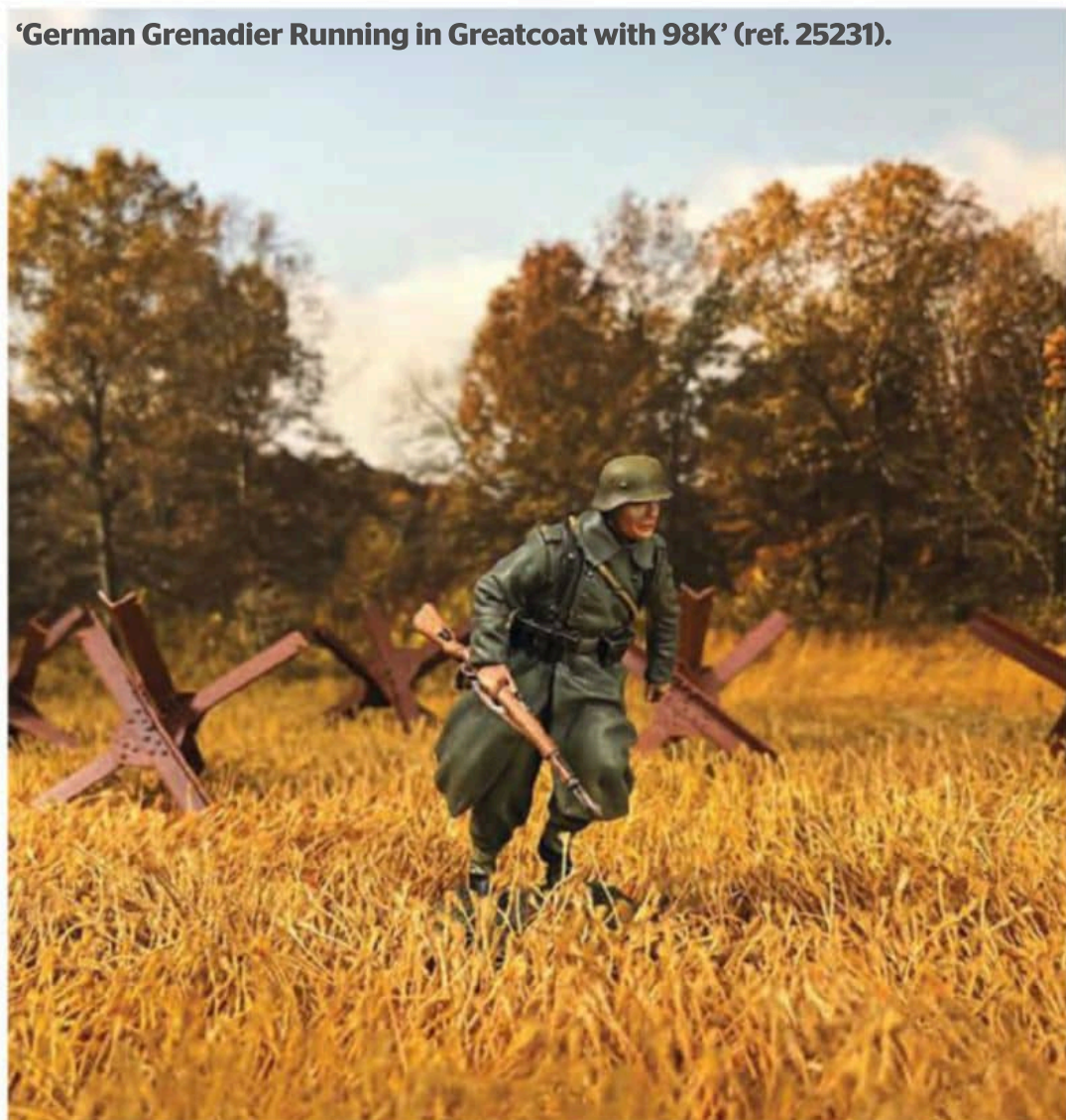
'Yoke of Oxen' (ref. 35054).

'German Grenadier in Greatcoat Kneeling Looking Up' (ref. 25235).



'German Grenadier in Greatcoat Kneeling, No. 2' (ref. 25236).

'German Grenadier Running in Greatcoat with 98K' (ref. 25231).



'German Grenadier Running in Greatcoat with MP40' (ref. 25232).



‘German Grenadier Running in Greatcoat with MG42’ (ref. 25233).



‘German Grenadier Running in Greatcoat with Spare MG42 Barrel’ (ref. 25234).



‘Norman Knight with Banner, 1066’ (ref. 50092C).



‘42nd Royal Highland Regiment Pipe Major, 1758-67’ (ref. 50123C).

greatcoats priced at \$48 apiece. Running figures are armed with either a 98K rifle (ref. 25231), MP40 (ref. 25232) or MG42 (ref. 25233).

The fourth running grenadier is the most eye-catching to me because he is carrying a ‘Spare MG42 Barrel’ (ref. 25234). He illustrates how German machine gunners had to put on heat-resistant gloves to switch out

overheated barrels with a fresh one to sustain their fire. I am probably wrong, but this sculpture seems like a neat new angle to me.

Also new are German grenadiers titled ‘Kneeling Looking Up’ (ref. 25235) and ‘Kneeling, No. 2’ (ref. 25236). They’d both look good placed in either a field of action or a rubble-strewn urban warfare scenario.

Collectors’ Club

Usually, I don’t delve into makers’ special club figures in my reviews of new releases, but some interesting exclusives have been unveiled anyone who joins the W. Britain Collectors’ Club for 2024. They include a striking ‘Norman Knight with Banner, 1066’ (ref. 50092C) that costs \$58 and a ‘42nd Royal Highland Regiment Pipe Major, 1758-67’ (ref. 50123C) that is priced at \$50. A \$46 ‘British 1st Foot Guards



'Coldstream Guards Grenadier NCO Marching, 1792' (ref. 50128C).



'Coldstream Guards Grenadier Officer Marching, 1792' (ref. 50129C).



'Coldstream Guards Battalion Coy Officer Marching, 1792' (ref. 50130C)

Company Officer, 1812-16' (ref. 50122C) could represent 1815's Battle of Waterloo during the Napoleonic Wars. The legions of collectors like me who are intrigued by Anglo-Zulu War combatants would like either the British '24th Foot OR Standing Answering Roll Call, 1879' (ref. 50121C) or '24th Foot in Full Marching Kit, 1879' (ref. 50131C). Either of those

soldiers costs \$46 as does a standing World War II US Tanker in Bib Overalls' (ref. 50124C).

Glossy old Britains were my first love as a collector, so I am glad to see the current incarnation of the company uphold tradition by issuing three different British figures faithfully based on a series of eighteenth-

century watercolours done by Coldstream Guards Captain James Hewgill. The complementary traditional-style figures cost \$28 apiece and are titled 'Coldstream Guards Grenadier NCO Marching, 1792' (ref. 50128C), 'Coldstream Guards Grenadier Officer Marching, 1792' (ref. 50129C) and 'Coldstream Guards Battalion

Coy Officer Marching, 1792' (ref. 50130C).

In a nutshell, members are entitled to three editions of *The Standard: The Exclusive Journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club*, a choice of one free exclusive figure and the option of buying others each year. Details of how to join can be found on the maker's website.



'British 1st Foot Guards Company Officer, 1812-16' (ref. 50122C).



Zulu War 'British 24th Foot OR Standing Answering Roll Call, 1879' (ref. 50121C).



Zulu War '24th Foot in Full Marching Kit, 1879' (ref. 50131C).



'US Tanker in Bib Overalls' (ref. 50124C).

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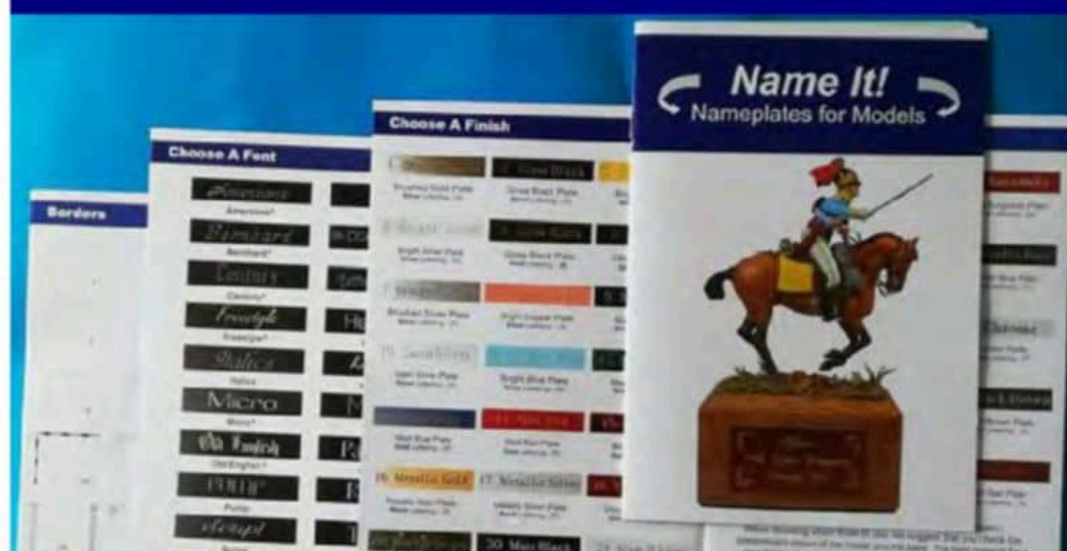
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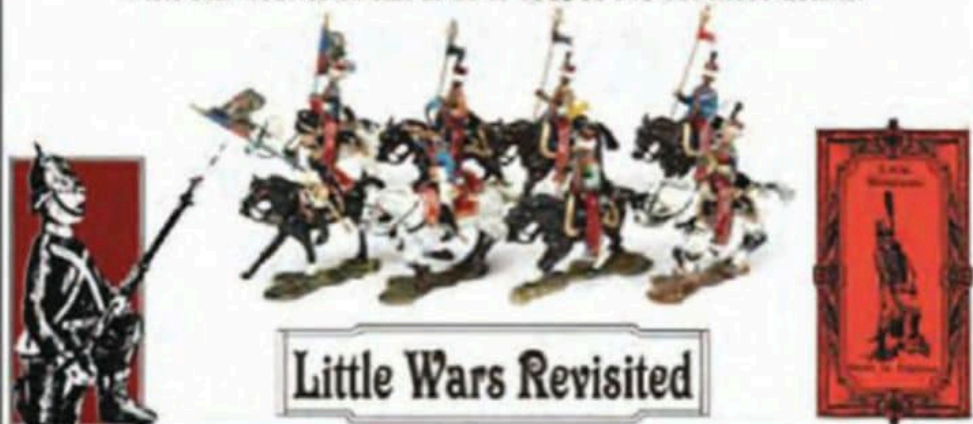
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World War II's Operation Citadel

David Grummitt reconsiders aspects of the great clash of arms on the Eastern Front in 1943 and profiles German armour involved in the Battle of Kursk.

Text: David Grummitt

Photos: Various Sources

Operation Citadel or the Battle of Kursk, the German offensive on the Eastern Front in July 1943, is usually characterised as a titanic clash of armoured might, the greatest tank battle ever fought. It has passed into myth, both in Soviet history and in the history of the German armed forces, and the idea of massed armoured formations throwing themselves against each other and against carefully entrenched defenders persists in some quarters. This ill-advised offensive, it is argued, broke the back of the German Panzer divisions and, because of the great losses incurred, the Wehrmacht was never again able to go on the offensive on the Eastern Front.

Recent research has questioned many of these assumptions. First, earlier accounts relied heavily on the official Soviet account of the battle and on the memoirs of the commanders of both sides, notably those of the commander of German Army Group South, Field Marshall Erich von Manstein, and the commander of the Soviet 5th Guards Tank Army, Pavel Rotmistrov. These memoirs were apologist in nature, seeking to justify the commanders' decisions and actions by exaggerating both their own successes and the strength of the enemy. Second, it is only recently that archival sources have been exploited fully to provide a different narrative of the battle and one that has enabled historians to move beyond the propaganda of both sides.

Operation Overview

The German strategy for the Eastern Front in 1943 was essentially one of strategic defence. After the disaster at Stalingrad, the situation on the southern portion of the Eastern Front had been stabilised to some degree by Manstein's recapture of Kharkiv in March 1943. German leader Adolf Hitler insisted that the front was solidified further, however, by the elimination of the salient between the boundaries of Army Groups South and Centre which centred upon the Russian city of Kursk. Two great pincers would attack and close the salient, trapping the Red Army units in it and even-

A long column of Panzer IV of 7./SS-Panzer-Regiment 1 somewhere on the southern front of the Kursk salient. The Panzer III and Panzer IV, both introduced before the outbreak of war, still made up the bulk of Germany's armoured forces in 1943. (Bundesarchiv)

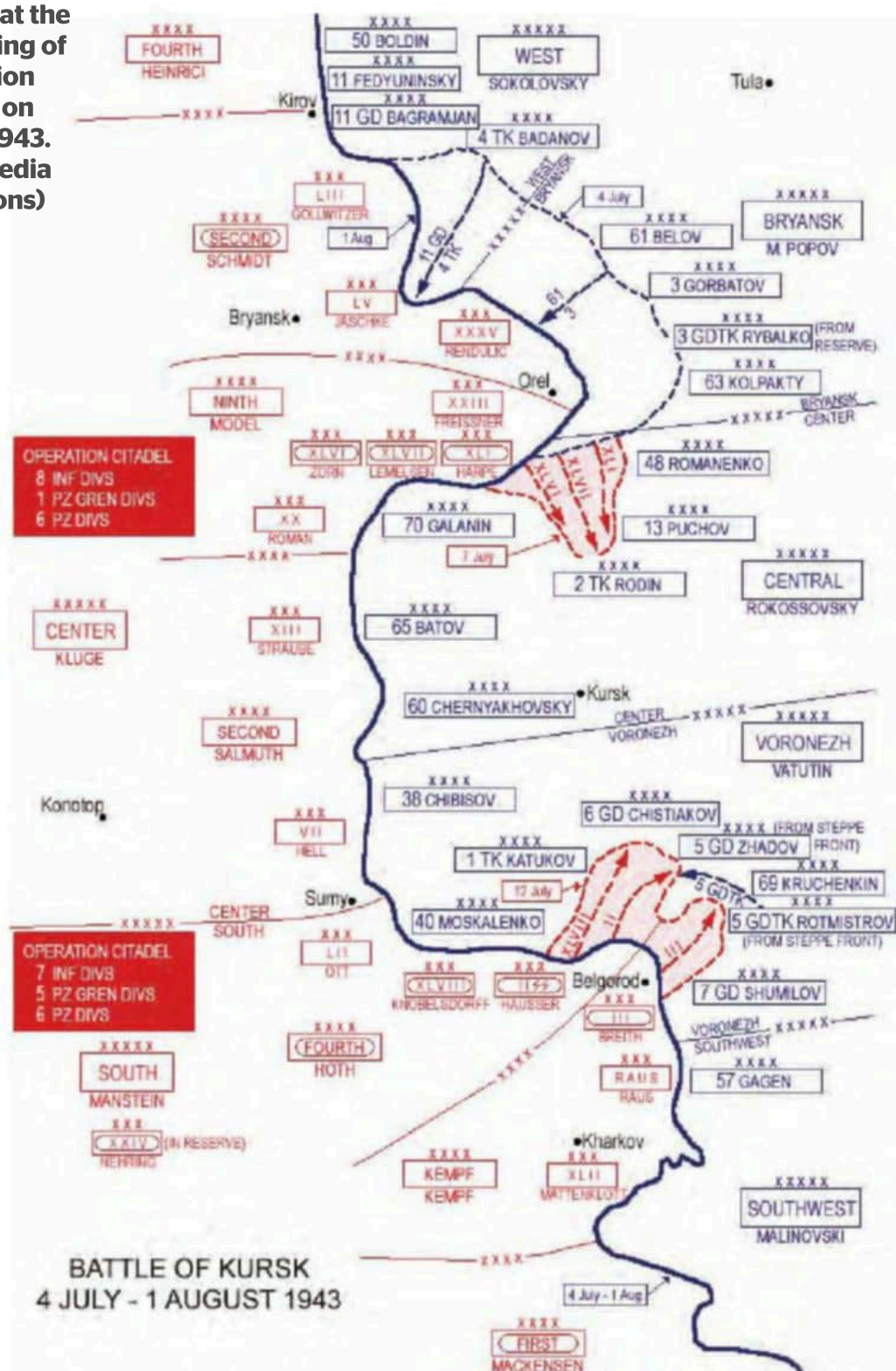


ing out the front line: *Generaloberst* Walter Model's Ninth Army would advance from the north, while *Generaloberst* Hermann Hoth's Fourth Panzer Army and General

Werner Kempf's Army Detachment Kempf would push from the south. Manstein and the commander of Army Group Centre, Field Marshall Günther

von Kluge, pressed for an April start to the offensive, but Heinz von Guderian, the *Inspektor General der Panzertruppen*, and Hitler himself wanted

The dispositions of the opposing armies at the beginning of Operation Citadel on 5 July 1943. (Wikimedia Commons)



A Panzer IV Ausf. H of Panzer-Regiment 15, 11. Panzer Division, part of Fourth Panzer Army, moves to the front.



Panzer III Ausf. L of Panzer-Regiment 15 in their assembly area prior to an attack.

to delay the attack until the Panzer forces had been replenished and new AFVs, such as the Panther medium tank, were available. As such, the offensive did not begin until 5 July 1943.

Facing the Germans in the north of the salient was Konstantinovich Rokossovsky's Central Front, while in the south General Nikolai Vatutin's Voronezh Front defended the area to the north of Belgorod. Stavka, the Russian High Command, had in reserve Ivan Konev's Steppe Front. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin had been persuaded not to go on the offensive in the summer of 1943 but instead to implement the Kursk Strategic Defensive Operation, a system of three supporting defensive lines with extensive minefields and field fortifications designed to blunt the German advance before the Red Army would go over to the offensive itself. Helped by the Lucy spy ring

and information from the Western Allies, but also by a thorough reorganisation of Soviet intelligence gathering, the Stavka was aware of the German plans for the Kursk salient and prepared accordingly, although they did not know when the proposed attack was to begin. By the end of June, the Central and Voronezh Fronts had amassed some 1,336,000 troops, 19,000 artillery pieces and 3,444 AFVs with which to defend the salient, while the Steppe Front had available a further 573,000 personnel, 7,401 guns and 1,551 AFVs.

The Germans had similarly assembled a formidable force for Operation Citadel, but the extent to which this provided the capability to launch an armoured *Blitzkrieg* should not be overestimated. There is much debate over the precise numbers and discrepancies between unit establishments and the real number of op-

erational AFVs. What is clear, however, is that the Panzer divisions and other armoured units were not at full strength at the beginning of Operation Citadel. In the north, Ninth Army had six Panzer divisions in its starting order of battle, with two more added later. All of these, however, had only a single tank battalion, as opposed to the two they should have had. In fact, only the 2 and 4 Panzer Divisions were anything like their established strength. Model's force also included seven independent Sturmgeschütz battalions, a single heavy tank battalion – schwere Panzer-Abteilung 505 with 31 Tiger Is, although only two of its three companies were available at the start of the offensive, the third joining on 8 July – and schwere Panzerjäger Regiment 656, with its two battalions of 45 Ferdinand tank destroyers each and a battalion equipped with 45 Sturmpanzer IVs. In total, Ninth

Army had 581 tanks and some 175 StuG IIIs, as well as the Ferdinands and Sturmpanzer IVs, facing Rokossovsky's 1,749 tanks.

In the south, von Manstein's force was better equipped with armour. The presence of the elite divisions of II SS Panzer Corps and Panzergrenadier Division Grossdeutschland among Hoth's Fourth Panzer Army certainly helped the situation, although even SS Panzergrenadier Division 'Das Reich' operated 24 captured T-34/76s in its Panzer regiment. In addition to these and the five Panzer divisions, there were 200 of the new Panthers in the hastily assembled Panzer-Regiment 39. In total Fourth Panzer Army and Army Detachment Kempf fielded 1,252 tanks facing Vatutin's 1,537 tanks. In addition to the tanks, Von Manstein could field seven Sturmgeschütz battalions (including three in the Waffen SS divisions and one



One of the Panthers of 6./Panzer-Abteilung 52. Note the unusual track hangers on the turret and the early extended front mudguards.



Panthers with their turrets turned to the rear, probably from Panzer-Abteilung 51. The foliage obscures the turret tactical numbers.

→ in Panzergrenadier Division Grossdeutschland) totalling some 266 StuG IIIs.

Offensive Opens

The course of Operation Citadel is sufficiently recounted elsewhere, but suffice to say that both attacks, in the north and south of the salient, soon floundered against the well-prepared Soviet defences. In the north, Model's XLVII Panzer Corps and XLI Panzer Corps advanced some ten kilometres on 5 July. A Soviet counterattack was repulsed the following day and the main German effort was then made against the towns of Ponyri and Olkhovatka, but by 10 July Ninth Army's advance had ground to halt all along the front. On 12 July the Red Army launched

Operation Kutuzov and Army Group Centre went over to the defence.

In the south, von Manstein's divisions initially made better progress. By the end of 5 July, both XLVIII Panzer Corps and II SS Panzer Corps of Fourth Panzer Army had made good penetrations into the Soviet lines. Army Detachment Kempf made slower progress, but by the following day Vatutin had committed most of his reserves and done little to slow the German advance. By 9 July, elements of Fourth Panzer Army had reached the Psel River and in the following 48 hours II SS Panzer Corps continued its push towards Prokhorovka. On 12 July Rotmistrov's 5th Guards Tank Army counterattacked to pre-

vent the Waffen SS division's capture of Prokhorovka. The counterattack failed but the Germans had been prevented from breaking through the Soviet lines. The same day Hitler ordered the cessation of Operation Citadel in the north, although he allowed von Manstein to continue the advance of II SS Panzer Corps in the south in Operation Roland from 14 July. Three days later that offensive too was called off and the Germans moved over to the defence across the entire Eastern Front.

Operation Citadel was a strategic defeat for the Germans. They had failed to close the Kursk salient and trap the Soviet troops within it. Nevertheless, it did not, by any means, represent the destruction of German armoured might in the East, nor was it quite the great decisive tank battle it is frequently portrayed as. As ever in war, the reality was far more chaotic and complex. In the rest of this article, I'll look at two well-known and controversial aspects of the battle in the light of recent research.

Panthers at Kursk

One of the reasons frequently cited for Hitler's decision to delay the launch of Operation Citadel was his wish to have the new Panzerkampfwagen V Panther tanks available. These new AFVs, it is argued, proved

costly failures at Kursk. The much-vaunted Panther was mechanically unsound and its crews untrained, leading to heavy losses. In fact, the experience of Panzer-Regiment 39, with its 200 Panthers and four Bergepanther recovery vehicles, was far more complex. The deployment of the Panther during Operation Citadel has rightly been portrayed as a lesson in how not to incorporate new military technology. The constituent battalions of Panzer-Regiment 39 – Panzer-Abteilungen 51 and 52 – were hastily formed from men of the 9 and 11 Panzer Divisions and contained relatively few veterans of the Eastern Front. After some rushed training at Grafenwöhr in Bavaria, they were despatched to the Eastern Front, arriving only on 4 July. Radio equipment had not been checked and more than one Panther caught fire as flames belched from their exhausts as they detrained.

Panzer-Regiment 39 attacked on the morning of 5 July behind Panzer-Regiment 'Grossdeutschland'. A total of 184 Panthers were available for the advance on the first day objective of Tscherkasskoje. They soon hit the Berezovyi Ravine, a water-filled anti-tank ditch some eight to ten metres-wide and three to four-metres deep. While Panzer-Regiment 'Grossdeutschland'



The positions of II SS Panzer Corps and the 1st Tank Army and 5th Guards Tank Army near Prokhorovka on the morning of 12 July 1943. (Wikimedia Commons)

bypassed the ditch, the Panther regiment attempted to cross it, soon falling into difficulty. Panzer-Regiment 39 came under artillery fire and by the end of the day eighteen Panthers had been lost to enemy fire, mines or mechanical failure. The attack continued the following day with a further 37 Panthers lost, including one that was destroyed by friendly fire. On 7 July, Panzer-Regiment 39 and Panzer-Regiment 'Grossdeutschland' faced counterattacks from three Soviet tank brigades and by the end of the day only twenty Panthers remained operational. During the following days, Panzer-Regiment 39 became embroiled in a deadly battle of attrition. By the evening of 10 July, 25 Panthers had been destroyed, 65 were under repair and a further 100 were awaiting repair (of which 56 were a result of enemy action and 44 of mechanical failure). During the next 24 hours the field workshops managed to increase the number of operational tanks from ten to 38, but the first deployment of the Panther had ended in ignominious failure. On 12 July, Panzer-Regiment 39 was withdrawn for a refit, but the following day it was again in action supporting Panzer-Regiment 'Grossdeutschland'. As Operation Citadel ended, the Panthers were loaded on trains and withdrawn to Bryansk. On 21 July, the Fourth Panzer Army reported that it had 41 operational Panthers, 85 in need of repair, sixteen that required transportation to Germany for a complete overhaul, and that 58 had been destroyed by enemy action since 5 July.

There can be little doubt that the Panther's first combat during the Battle of Kursk was an unmitigated failure. However, over the course of the summer, the crews' familiarity

with and training on the tank, better tactical deployment, mechanical improvements and the availability of spare parts ensured that the Panther soon emerged as one of the most effective weapons in the German tank arsenal.

Tigers at Prokhorovka

The great armoured clash south-west of the town of Prokhorovka on 12 July was the defining event of Operation Citadel. The traditional view of a swirling encounter battle involving 1,200 AFVs of the II SS Panzer Corps and 5th Guards Tank Army in which some 400 German tanks, including 70 Tigers, were destroyed was crafted by Marshal Aleksandr Vasilevskii, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, and reinforced by Romistrov's memoirs and Soviet historians like Valeriy Zamulin. This battle, the argument went, was a decisive defeat for the Germans, smashing the combat power of the Waffen SS and bringing an end to Operation Citadel.

Some authors, often former members of the Waffen SS, Ernest Klink and Sylvester Stadler, questioned this narrative, based on their reading of the extant German war diaries, but the myth of Prokhorovka proved difficult to shift. From the 1990s, however, historians like Robin Cross, Karl-Heinz Frieser, George Nipe and David Glantz established that the German losses were much, much less than claimed by So-

'S01' was the command tank of 8./SS-Panzer-Regiment 2 and was lost in action on 11 July. The company lost its commander on the morning of 11 July to an arm injury. His replacement was killed later that day, and a third commander suffered the same fate four days later.

Tiger Is of 8./SS-Panzer-Regiment 2, 2. SS-Panzer Grenadier-Division 'Das Reich'. 'Das Reich' began Operation Citadel with twelve Tigers. One was lost and the acting company commander was killed on 11 July, but the division reported that none of its Tigers were operational on the morning of Prokhorovka.

A Panzer V Panther Ausf. D of 8./Panzer-Abteilung 52, Panzer-Regiment 39, during Operation Citadel, Gremichy, Russia, July 1943. (Artwork by Claudio Fernandez)



A Panzer VI Tiger Ausf. E of 9./SS-Panzer-Regiment 3, SS Panzergrenadier Division 'Totenkopf' during Operation Citadel, Psel River, Russia, July 1943. (Artwork by Claudio Fernandez)



→ IVs and a single Tiger I from 1. SS-Panzer-Regiment, and a single Panzer III from 2. SS-Panzer-Regiment. This much is well established and was first noted in 1980 when parts of II SS Panzer Corps' war diary was published. What is less well known, however, is just how few AFVs II SS Panzer Corps had operational on 12 July and, indeed, the nature of the losses of and number of AFVs available to II SS Panzer Corps during Operation Citadel. The II SS Panzer Corps began the offensive with an establishment of 547 AFVs (tanks, StuG IIIs and self-propelled anti-tank guns) of which 488 were operational on 5 July. Each division also has twelve 10.5cm Wespe and six 15cm Hummel self-propelled howitzers (none of which were lost in action during Operation Citadel). The inventory had risen to 521

Battle of Kursk German Tiger tanks and troops in 1/30 scale by King & Country Ltd.



Operation Citadel was a strategic defeat for the Germans. They had failed to close the Kursk salient and trap the Soviet troops within it. Nevertheless, it did not, by any means, represent the destruction of German armoured might in the East, nor was it quite the great decisive tank battle it is frequently portrayed as.

AFVs of which 339 were operational by 12 July. The fall in the number of operational AFVs was largely due to mechanical failure (as was the case with the Tiger I tanks), mine damage or minor damage which necessitated short-term repair. The actual number of combat losses suffered by II SS Panzer Corps during Operation Citadel was very small: 'Totenkopf', for example, lost seven tanks (two Panzer IIIs, four Panzer IVs and a Tiger I) and a StuG III in combat between 5 and 10 July, but none between 11 and 20 July. Similarly, 'LSSAH' lost one Pz.Bef.Wg. I, one Panzer III, four Panzer IVs, a StuG III and a Marder III between 5 and 10 July, while 'Das Reich' lost two Panzer IIIs, two Panzer IVs, two T-34s and a Tiger I during the same period. The combat

losses of 'LSSAH' and 'Das Reich' from 11 July to the end of Operation Citadel were less, but in addition to the losses on 12 July listed above, 'Das Reich' lost one of its T-34 in this period. In total, on the evening of 18 July, at the end of Operation Citadel, II SS Panzer Corps had 350 operational AFVs, more than it had had on the morning of the combat at Prokhorovka!

Recently discovered Luftwaffe aerial photographs of the battlefield of 12 July confirm the massive discrepancy between the Soviet and German losses. In total 235 Soviet AFVs can be identified as being destroyed on this three-kilometre stretch of the front, the great majority of them on 12 July. Equally, the effectiveness of German armour and

the 'hotspots' in the fighting is clear from the photographs. The four 'LSSAH' Panzer IVs destroyed on 12 July were all close to Hill 252.2, while only four Tiger I tanks from 13./SS-Panzer-Regiment 1 appear to have taken an active part in the battle and were responsible for the destruction of a considerable amount of Soviet armour. Indeed, it seems that there were only seven Panzer IVs, StuG IIIs and Marder IIIs deployed forward of the anti-tank ditch and Stalinsk State Farm at the beginning of 12 July, giving lie to the Soviet account of an encounter battle as both the II SS Panzer Corps and the 5th Guards Tank Army moved forward to contact. In fact, it was as much the 7.5cm Pak40 anti-tank guns attached to SS-Panzergranadier-

Regiment 1 and Marder IIIs as the tanks that destroyed the attack of 29th Tank Corps' 25th Tank Brigade as it advanced towards the Stalinsk State Farm, leaving the remnants to be picked off by 'LSSAH' StuG IIIs.

Prokhorovka was a significant defeat for the Red Army. The II SS Panzer Corps emerged from 12 July virtually unscathed in terms of its armoured strength. That is not to say that 'LSSAH', the principal unit engaged on 12 July, did not suffer casualties (III./SS-Panzergranadier-Regiment 2 lost twenty Sd.Kfz. 251s and several hundred men, for example, during the fighting around Hill 252.2), but in no sense was the II SS Panzer Corps destroyed as a fighting force. Indeed, when von



King & Country Ltd. 1/30-scale model of a Panther medium tank.



→ Manstein visited Fourth Panzer Army on the evening of 12 July his commanders 'voiced their confidence after success in the fierce defensive battles' and looked forward to renewing their offensive, confident that they would soon break through the Soviet lines.

On that day, however, in the centre of the salient the Soviets launched Operation Kutusov against Second Panzer Army. It was this and the news of the Allied invasion of Sicily two days earlier, rather than a

German defeat at Prokhorovka, that led to the cancellation of Operation Citadel.

World War II's Battle of Kursk has been a favourite subject of toy soldier and model figure collectors through the years. Makers have modelled the opposing forces' vehicles and soldiers in various materials and scales. END



Cover of the 2007 book *Panther vs T-34: Ukraine 1943* by Robert Forczyk from the 'Duel' series by Osprey Publishing.

ABOUT THE WRITER

David Grummitt, managing editor at Guideline Publications, is also a professional historian, having previously taught in UK universities for 25 years. He is author of *A Short History of the Wars of the Roses* (I.B. Tauris, 2013).

Some of the first Panthers produced in 1943 soldiered on into the following year. This 1/35-scale model, built from a Dragon kit by Canadian modeller Harvey Low, represents the Ausf. D tank commanded by Waffen SS ace Ernst Barkmann.



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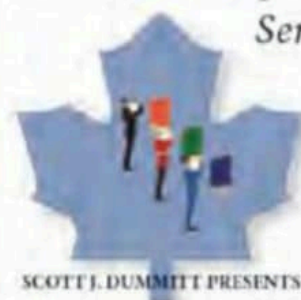
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Imperial German Wargames On the Brink of World War I

Joe DeMarco conducts research and musters toy soldiers for dioramas to recreate a circa 1912-13 German army Kriegsspiel overseen by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Text and Photos: Joe DeMarco

The Great Powers took notice of the Prussian kingdom after its crushing victory in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. Four years later, the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 resulted in the Northern German Confederation spearheaded by Prussia dealing a decisive defeat to the Second French Empire. The relatively rapid victory stunned both neutral observers and the French, who foresaw a much longer war and expected to prevail.

As the Franco-Prussian War neared its conclusion, the German Empire was founded on 18 January 1871, shortly before the fall of besieged Paris on 28 January effectively ended the conflict. Prussia was one of four kingdoms in the unified realm, but it contained about two-thirds of the territory and population. In addition, its dominance was constitutionally established via the machinations of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, and Prussian King Wilhelm I also became the German emperor (*Deutscher kaiser*). With the exceptions of Austria and predominately German-speaking Switzerland, it was the first time the vast majority of German speakers were united under one nation-state.

Consequently, Germany supplanted France as the dominant land power in continental Europe. After unification, many German military units retained the names of their originating states or regions. Some examples include the Hessian Dragoons, Pomeranian Fusiliers and the Saxon Horse

Training Games

The German word *Kriegsspiel* refers to wargames developed by the Prussian army during the nineteenth century to aid in training officers in battlefield tactics. It was credited as being an important factor that resulted in victory in the Franco-Prussian War.

Chess was the first serious wargame and it has endured through the ages. Precursors to chess have been traced back

The third group in the parade is the Life Guard Hussars. This set is made up of solid-cast figures with very detailed paintwork. The original castings were bought from Bob Walker many years ago.





Dragoons lead the parade followed by an infantry unit. Some of the General Staff and foreign observers are outside the barrier watching the parade.

to India in the seventh century AD, though its roots might date thousands of years earlier. In Sanskrit, the board game is known as *caturanga* and it refers to a battle formation made up of elephants, chariots, infantry and cavalry represented by pieces that evolved into today's bishop, rook, pawn and knight, respectively.

German chess enthusiasts developed several different war strategy games to help train officers. Eventually, the Prussian nobleman, officer and wargaming enthusiast George Leopold von Reisswitz set out to create a more realistic wargame in which units could move in a free-form way across more natural terrain. During the Napoleonic Wars in 1811, he first demonstrated his tabletop strategy game with little painted wooden blocks representing troop formations to Prussian princes. They recommended it to their father King Frederick Wilhelm III.

The innovator's son, George Heinrich Rudolf Johann von Reisswitz, was a junior officer in the Prussian army and continued to develop his father's wargame with help

from fellow officers in Berlin. In addition to its emphases on realism and the experience of decision making rather than competition, Reisswitz Jr.'s greatest innovation was the introduction of an umpire to manage hidden information and keep the rules flexible. The *Kriegsspiel* system was endorsed as a training tool for Prussian officers in 1824. Maps and dice were used to simulate combat as opposing teams would maneuver their forces while having to consider morale, weather, logistics the fog of war and more factors.

It possibly wasn't until after the Franco-Prussian War that large-scale live army field manoeuvres were organised as wargames. While doing research, I was unable to find mention of any before 1911. Britain also practiced field manoeuvres during the same era.

My research for recreating German wargames in miniature unexpectedly turned up several quite interesting videos on YouTube. I highly recommend one titled 'How Did War Become a Game?' about the evolution of *Kriegsspiel*. It goes into great detail of its evolution starting with Reisswitz Sr.'s first game and how a large wooden-table cabinet was built to contain it for presentation to the Prussian king in 1812. I was also surprised to find videos showing German troops on parade before World War I in either the original black-and-white film or colourised. Examples include 'Kaiser Wilhelm II Reviews His Troops at Various Parades' and 'Kaiser Wilhelm II in Color'.

Group of original infantrymen on oval bases made by Josef Bischoff in Germany before World War I. My solid-cast reproductions have a darker green rectangular base.



Research for Figures

I have many favourite figures in my toy soldier collection. All my conversion and creation work centres around 54mm or 1/32 scale items. Some of them are solid-cast. I produce them by drop casting with silicone moulds. Others are old hollow-cast figures that are usually Britains or similar to them. I continually search for more online via eBay. My preference is to buy damaged goods with low prices. These are almost always restored or converted by means of a new head and arm from my boxes of spare parts to turn into something else. Imperial armies of the 1900 period are my specialty. They wore colourful uniforms in a historical era that is fascinating to me. I have made German, British, Italian, American, Japanese, Belgium, French forces and more.





A newly purchased Guards fife and drum band. They were a nice addition to the parade because they are the only German band in my collection.



The Grenadier Guards with their tall mitre caps follow the band. Right behind them appears a group of recast marching figures designed by Holger Eriksson with a hand-painted flag.



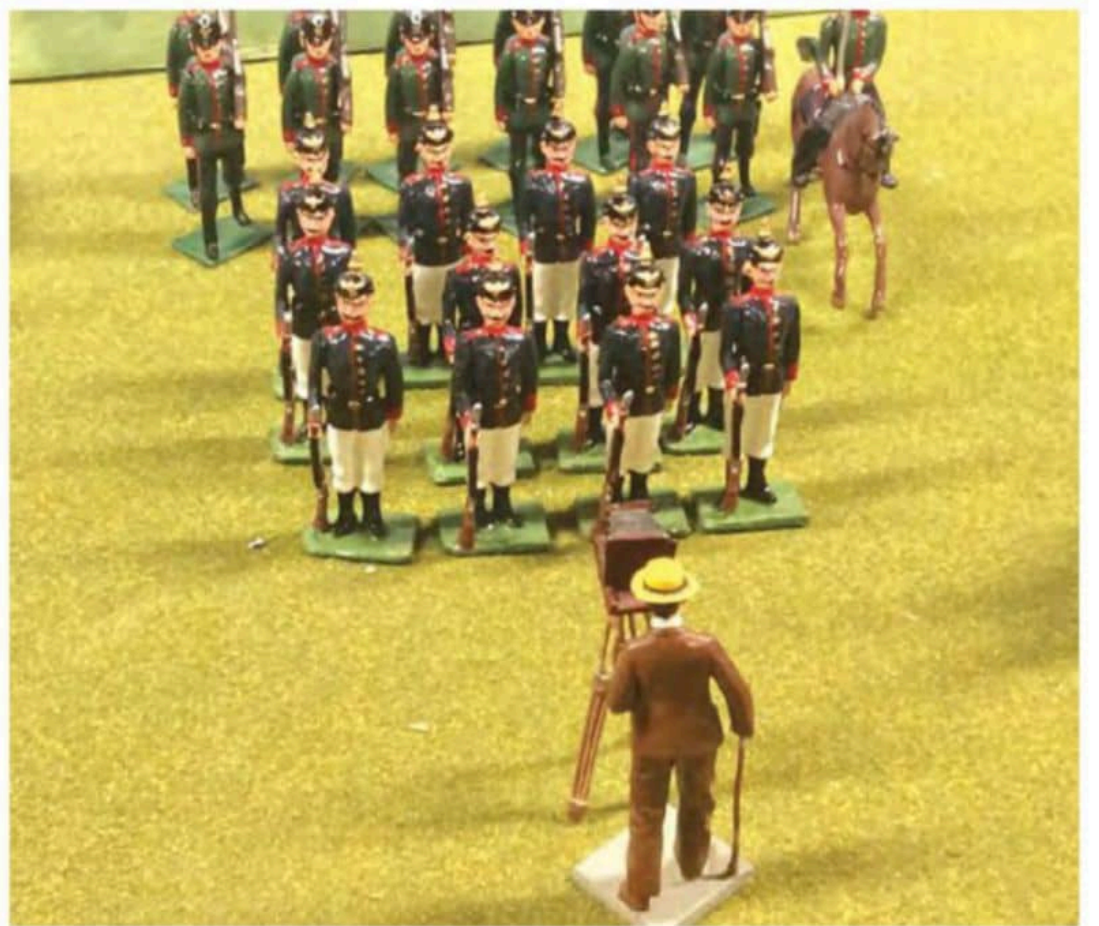
Occasionally, I'll come across a picture of an unusual military unit from a book or on the internet. I'll put castings together and replicate the uniform to add to the ranks of my toy troops. Few people seem to do this sort of thing anymore. I know less than a handful of people who paint toy soldiers and even fewer who create their own.

I have a large number of military uniform books in my library for references, including some that focus on the uniforms of pre-World War I Germany. They include *German Military Forces of the 19th Century* by Gustav A. Sigel and Major General Von Specht. It was originally published in 1900 and reprinted in 1989. This book contains numerous period colour uniforms in training scenes. I am very fortunate to have an original copy that was published in a large format versus the smaller-sized reprint.

Another good reference is *The Kaiser's Army in Color: Uniforms of the Imperial German Army* as Illustrated by Carl Becker 1890-1910 authored by Charles Wooley and published in 2000. It features 104 watercolour paintings of outstanding quality.

Author and artist AE Haswell Miller's illuminating book *Vanished Armies: A Record of Military Uniform Observed and Drawn in Various European Countries During the Years 1907 to 1914* was edited by John Mollo and published in 2009. I have several other relevant books that are mostly paperbacks.

The Sigel book was my prime reference for 35 years. A large number of my glossy sets were modelled after his pictures.



An infantry contingent gets photographed. Behind them is a group of Jaegers in green tunics.



These dragoons rank as the first set I modelled after paintings in the book *German Military Forces of the 19th Century*. It remains one of my favourites.



Members of the General Staff stand behind a barrier near the converted Stutz Bearcat truck, the horse-drawn ambulance and a few automobiles.



Solid-cast Life Guard Hussars that I made using the Sigel book as a guide. Bob Walker supplied the castings for this set.



Guardes du Corps group that I started making in December 2019. The solid-cast horses were made in Germany as sort of packhorse. I added saddles and the figures to create this imposing set.



German infantry in the new grey-green uniform introduced in 1912 with hand-painted flags. Even though the uniforms are not colourful, I think they are attractive. They started out life as solid-cast Royal Canadian Mounted Police figures.



Grenadier Guards made using Bob Walker castings. I had these castings for more than twenty years before inspiration kicked in.

Later I used some of my other books to crosscheck accuracy. The end product was lots of sets of different Prussian and Imperial German army and naval units. I try to make each set of cavalry or infantry with a minimum four pieces and a maximum of sixteen pieces.

Mustering Troops

I began this project by mustering my pre-World War I German toy soldiers to plan dioramas. At the time, I had no idea how

many of them I had collected or made through the years. Please note that I am not one to create spreadsheets or computer programs to keep track my collection. I have a friend who did it with his collection and I applaud him for it. He even had his inventory self-published at no small expense. Thanks to having a lot of rare spare time in 1988, I started to create an inventory, but I found it to be a boring project and an endeavour not to be repeated.

I am also pleasantly surprised when I find something that had been tucked away in a cabinet for many years with no recollection that I even had that particular set. That says a lot about the size of my collection. I believe that many of my fellow collectors are in the same situation.

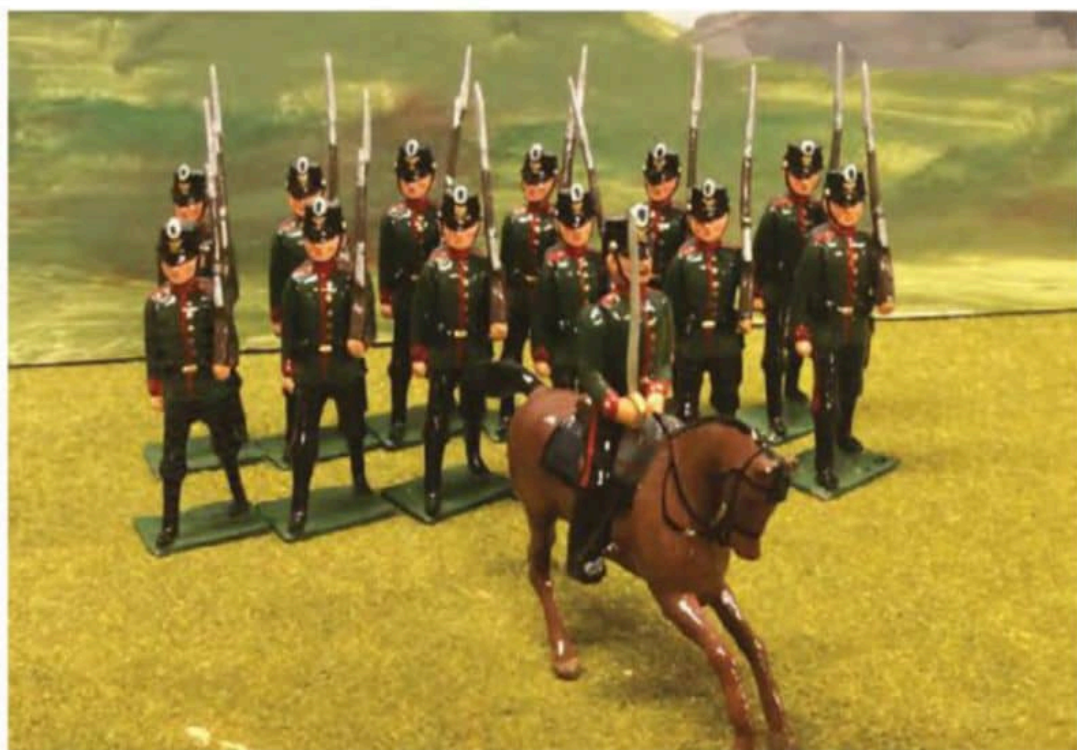
Setting the Stage

I planned to make a couple of dioramas, but I needed a table to display them on that would be inexpensive and not take up a lot of space. I went to a Home Depot store and bought an



An older set of Bavarian infantrymen. These are solid-cast figures with new heads and rifle arms. The mounted officer and the infantrymen were made using the Sigel reference book.





Jaegers in their distinctive caps and green tunics. These originated from old Britains recasts. The new heads and rifle arms helped create this unit.



The Kaiser consults with General Staff officers and government administrators. The civilian figures were made by combining the old Britains Royal Air Force casting with new heads.

→ unfinished and smooth hollow-core door available in various sizes. It is quite light and easy to handle.

The door lays on two plastic sawhorses whose height can be adjusted. Layered atop the door is a flat grass sheet available at virtually any hobby and crafts supply store. An appropriate colour of green paint could be applied instead. I made scenic backdrops from foam boards painted with acrylics. By looking at landscapes in art books and even on TV, you can get an idea of what a sky should look like. By adding in mountains or other features, a hobbyist can create an appropriate backdrop. It takes a little concentration, but I believe that there is a little artist in all of us. I have two different sets of backdrops that I can use for any display.

The only downside with the foam boards is that they tend to warp. I'm hoping to have better luck with thin Masonite hardboard in the future.

The display includes a castle that is a favourite of mine. It was a gift from a friend bought it for \$10 US at an auction. After setting up the display table, I started grouping the various units. More and more sets started to appear. There are figures in summer uniforms with white trousers or winter dress with dark grey trousers. There are marching figures on parade and German troops in action poses. In this case, the action figures would represent military manoeuvres that took place in 1912 and 1913.

About two-thirds of the sets came out of my display cases and stored away boxes for these two displays. My Imperial German Navy sailors and marines remained on the shelf. I wanted to show what I consider to be the best and most

colourful toy soldiers that I have.

I also wanted to display the collection two ways in both a parade diorama and an action scenario with calvary charging and infantry firing. The second group would simulate the pre-World War I manoeuvres. I took inspiration from black-and-white photos in the book *Armies of the World 1854-1914* authored by David Woodward and published in 1978.

Diorama 1

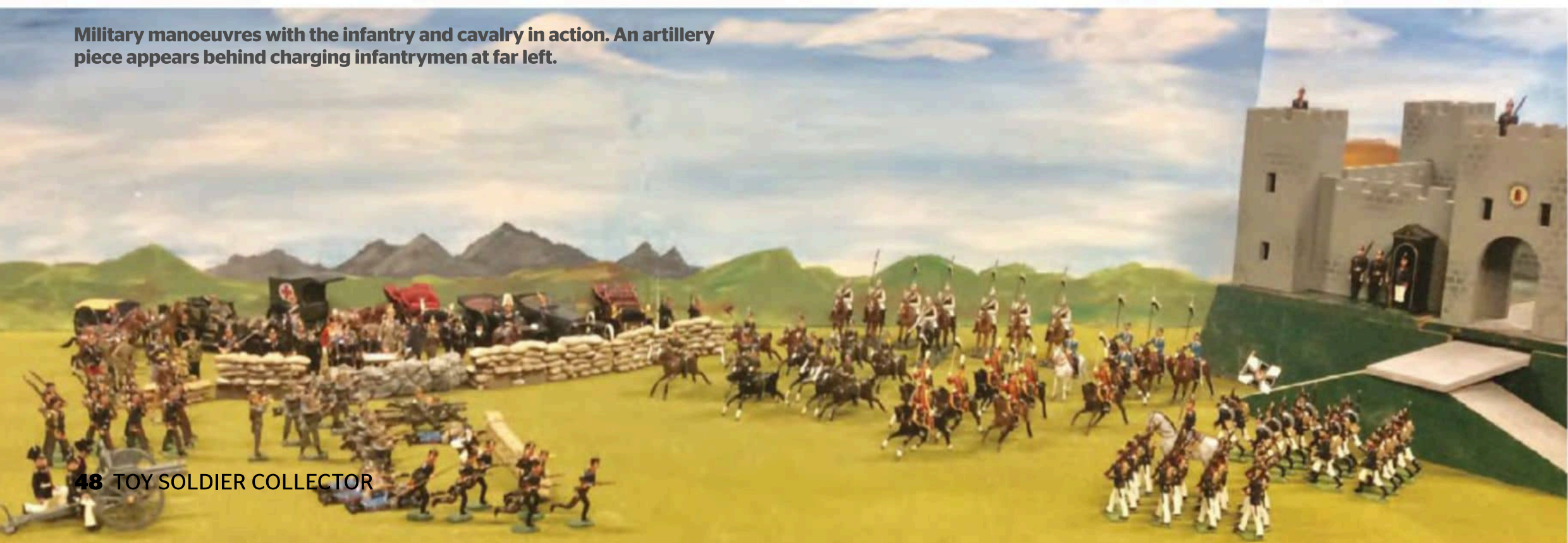
The parade includes seventeen different German cavalry and infantry units in dress uniforms totalling more than 225 figures. Also included is an infantry group in the new *feldgrau* (grey-green) uniform introduced in 1912 because it had become necessary to consider camouflage as being a necessity in warfare.

A group composed of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the General Staff and civilian administrators acting as observers appears at the upper left. Period automobiles in the background include models of two 1913 Mercedes vehicles and a 1913 Cadillac. My horse-drawn ambulance was a recent conversion from a red delivery truck. First, I had to remove the chassis and engine parts. Then I attached wagon wheels and refurbished Britains horses.

A supply cart and an army truck are included. The truck was a figment of my imagination that started out as a plastic Stutz Bearcat automobile model kit.

Part of the scene shows members of the General Staff gathered around a map table to finetune the next day's manoeuvres. I love that little vignette.

Military manoeuvres with the infantry and cavalry in action. An artillery piece appears behind charging infantrymen at far left.





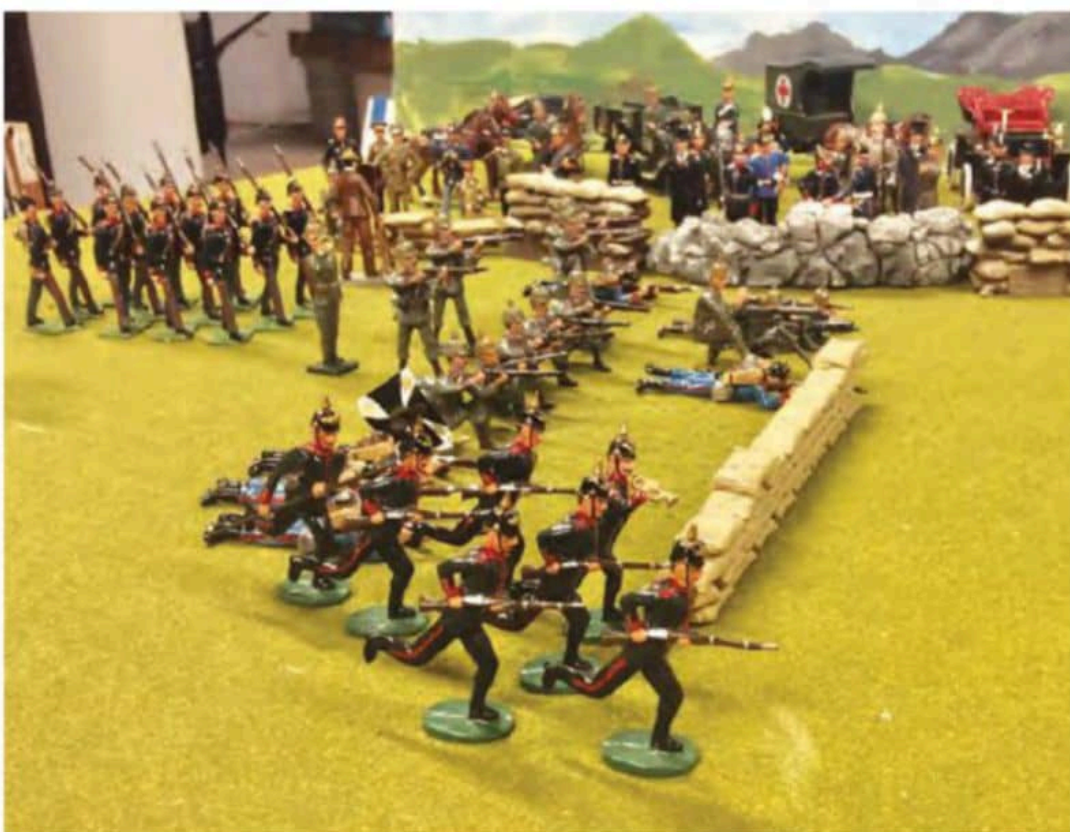
An artillery crew goes into action while buglers signal foot soldiers into action. The prone infantrymen firing their rifles represent Bavarians and were made by repainting Holger Eriksson figures.



Various lancers, including some converted from old Cherilea figures, advance on the infantry.



Two groups of infantry outflank the cavalry charge. Those in the foreground are restored Britains. Recast figures designed by Holger Eriksson appear behind them.



Infantrymen charge while their comrades in *feldgrau* dress lay down covering fire under the watchful eyes of the General Staff.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Joe DeMarco has been involved with 54mm metal toy soldiers most of his life. The American has been making and selling them as Avon Toy Soldiers since 2001. Joe is retired from Bell Atlantic/Verizon, where he worked as an engineer for 37 years. He was also a freelance artist and writer for numerous aviation hobby magazines for a span of 30 years. He and his wife, Marie, live in Neptune, New Jersey.

The parade progresses from right to left with additional units waiting to join in at the end. The castle includes a few guards and a group of infantrymen descending through the gate to join the parade.

Diorama 2

The second scene shows figures in action poses. The General Staff has finalised their plans for the manoeuvres and are issuing orders to the troops. In the early 1900s, telephone communications were not uncommon in both military manoeuvres and combat settings. For example, there are drawings of Japanese soldiers communicating with telephones during the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. In my diorama's case, however, the bugle command system is still in use.

Note how a group of foreign military observers are positioned at upper left. They represent France, Japan, Italy, Russia and Great Britain.

The majority of the infantry figures are attempting to repel cavalry charges. The horsemen include hussars, lancers and dragoons with the emperor's *Guardes du Corps* at the rear. Several machine gunners are testing their weapons. Also, a large group of infantrymen on the right are preparing to outflank the lancers.

History and Collecting

Writing about this portion of my toy soldier collection gave me a chance to review some of what I have. It also gave me a chance to dust them and clean the three display areas where they normally reside.

Besides all that, this project gave me a chance to dive into a part of history that I hadn't studied much since my first year of college. As I recall, the class was called 'The Rise of Western Civilization' and it was one of my favourite courses. The course's instructor, Dr Dmitri Markov, was one of the few professors who left a lasting impression on my me. I always loved studying history, but he made it all the more exciting in his classes.

I met the professor again many years later after college, my naval service and marriage. His wife was an art teacher where my wife also taught. Whenever there was a school social event, we would get a chance to meet and chat. END

German Kaiser's Army Wargames



This panoramic diorama created by US toy soldier collector and maker Joe DeMarco recreates Imperial German wargames on the brink of World War I. Figures of Kaiser Wilhelm II, his General Staff and foreign observers watch the circa 1912-13 *Kriegsspiel* training exercise. As detailed by Joe's feature article elsewhere in this edition, he researched wargaming in both history and miniature to collect and convert an array of cavalry and infantry units to create this impressive tableau complete with a castle, artillery, period motor vehicles, horse-drawn wagons and more. This scene echoes the quiet before the storm of war and the horrors of the trenches. – Stuart A. Hessney END



Collector Charlie Sinel with his antique boxed Heyde 60mm 'Buffalo Bill Wild West' set.



Collector's Story

Ray Bell explores the wonders of American collector Charlie Sinel's museum-quality collection.

Text: Raymond E. Bell Jr. Photos: Jennifer Coates

Maison Charlie is an unassuming mid-1950s house tucked away on a quiet street in a Rhode Island community. To a casual observer, the US dwelling might appear as being nothing special, but to any aficionado of toy soldier collecting it would be akin to visiting the encampment of a field marshal in civilian clothing. Actually, the house is devoted to displaying Charlie Sinel's awesome collection of toy soldiers in an elaborate museum-quality environment.

Charlie has collected figures for more than 70 years. His primary focus is German-made Heyde figures, but he has collected a gamut of other toy soldier makers and accompanying military equipment. Over time, Charlie has moved his trove of figures from his family's residence to another house completely devoted to exhibiting toy soldiers and associated militaria.

Charlie's 'Buffalo Bill Wild West' set that has appeared on the US *Antiques Roadshow* television programme. It is displayed in a room lined with display cabinets full of Heyde figures.





A placard identifies this display of Heyde figures as showing 'The Long Grey Line: West Point Cadets on Parade.'



Naval shell turned into trench art with the West Point crest on its wooden base.



US Navy battleships made in England by Bassett-Lowke.



Metal Shed models of World War I German maintenance wagons for wheelwrights and blacksmiths are shown from the left.

Evoking Excitement

In an age when museums are becoming interactive, it is hard to find one that features static displays that actually seem to be alive. Toy soldier museums themselves are especially hard to find. Also, many museums that have toy soldiers in their inventory tend to keep them in storage, not on display. Toy soldiers just do not seem to be popular museum display subjects these days.

For those reasons, Charlie has accomplished a unique feat by presenting his extensive collection in a beckoning manner. A visitor is drawn to his displays in a way that provokes excitement, wonder and respect.

The figures on display are toys, not military miniatures nor elaborately painted artistic models. Contemporary manufacturers such as W. Britain Model Figures are primarily producing figures that are so skilfully sculpted and painted that they are no longer meant to be played with but shown in display cases. In contrast, most of collectables in Maison Charlie are true toys and antiques.

For example, Charlie's boxed Heyde 60mm 'Buffalo Bill Wild West' set has been featured on the US *Antiques Roadshow* television series broadcast by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). The figures are in pristine shape and tied into the special box with thin wires. Pieces mounted on paper mats have helped preserve the figures through the long years of the set's existence.

Another thing that sets Maison Charlie apart is that a visitor is not going to see many of the Britains toy soldiers found in other collections and museum settings, such as the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, or the former Forbes Galleries in New York City.

Exploring Displays

Now that I've set the stage, please join me for a visit to Maison Charlie. After walking through the front door, a visitor will find the entrance hallway flanked by rooms with floor-to-ceiling





American Dimestore toy soldiers typical of Charlie's childhood armies.



British infantrymen made by Elastolin launch a charge.

“Over time, Charlie has moved his trove of figures from his family’s residence to another house completely devoted to exhibiting toy soldiers and associated militaria.”

→ display cases specially constructed to accommodate glass shelves. Printed placards placed inside the cabinets identify their contents, such as Heyde figures formed up to represent the ‘The Long Grey Line: West Point Cadets on Parade.’ In the middle of the left-hand room are two large model US Navy battleships of the Spanish-American War. They portray the USS *Massachusetts* and the USS *Illinois*. They were made in England by Bassett-Lowke, a toy manufacturer who specialised in model ships, railways and boats. They are overshadowed by legions of Heyde figures on the march, boxed sets and formidable castles.

In the right-hand room, the fireplace is flanked by two examples of trench art done on medium-calibre naval rounds. The work appears to have been done sometime between the World Wars for someone in US military service on the China station. On one round, the artist has done a wrap-round motif of a Chinese dragon. The other shell has a wonderful Art Deco rendition of beautiful woman. A West Point crest appears on its wooden base. Both pieces are breathtaking.

Childhood Nostalgia

Next, I proceeded to the basement where several displays stand out. Placed up against a wall were scale models of pre-World War II aircraft. Detailed descriptions of their history are positioned behind them in an example of an excellent attribute of the entire personal museum.

A unique exhibit focuses on World War I German wagons and mechanics devoted to maintenance and repair activities. Californian Bruce Hebron of Metal Shed produced groups recreating a wheelwright repair unit and a blacksmith’s tool shed.

A third display reveals Charley’s early passion for toys soldiers. Many adult collectors didn’t survive the teenage era



US Army encampment by Heyde.



Royal Engineers pontoon bridge section by Heyde.

of eschewing assembling toy armies, but he admits to never having lost his, shall we say, lust, for toy soldiers.

Charley recalled, “All I wanted for my birthday and Christmas presents or for grandparent visits were toy soldiers.” As a result, all lined up in a showcase are his examples of the American Dimestore toy soldiers that formed many childhood collections.



French firefighters boxed set by Mignot.



Mignot boxed set depicting French barracks life.

Closeup of the Heyde 'Buffalo Bill Wild West' set.



Composition and More

Back upstairs, Elastolin composition figures made in Germany are on parade. They include British infantry in scarlet coats and grenadier headgear of the post-1815 Waterloo campaign period who form the 'Thin Red Line of Heroes'. Composition figures by German makers such as Elastolin and Lineol were exported for sale at US five-and-dime stores.

Other displays include Heyde sets depicting a US Army encampment and a British Corps of Royal Engineers pontoon boat bridge set still tied in its box.

Other prominent makers from Continental Europe represented in Charlie's collection include CBG Mignot. Examples include boxed sets portraying French firemen or *pompier*s battling a house blaze and a French army barracks complete with a mess hall and sleeping quarters.

I would rank the Heyde 'Buffalo Bill Wild West' set as Maison Charlie's *pièce de résistance*. The field marshal in civilian dress keeps his *Antiques Roadshow* 'veteran' well-covered to preserve its pristine condition. Still, when the cover is removed to show the raging buffalos, cantering cowboys, marauding Native Americans and galloping stagecoach, it is the centrepiece of his collection and underscores how his displays are museum-grade. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Retired US Army Brigadier General Raymond E. Bell Jr, PhD, has been collecting toy soldiers, primarily Britains, since boyhood. He is a regular contributor to military history and toy soldier publications. The New York state resident is a 1957 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and taught German and Central European history there. Photographer Jennifer Coates is his daughter.



Lord Yoshinaka is dead.

The Tears of Heaven

Harry Anderson takes inspiration from Japan's history to evocatively model a storytelling scenario.

Text and Photos: Harry Anderson

After making a heroic last stand, Lord Minamoto no Yoshinaka has fallen during the Battle of Awazu on 21 February 1184 at the height of the Genpei War that has devastated Japan during the Middle Ages.

Instead of seeking immediate revenge, a formidable *onna-bugeisha* (female warrior) who ranks as the most effective member of the slain lord's clan must begin a grieving period lasting twelve interminable months in accordance with their Shinto religious beliefs. This mourning phase is known as 'The Tears of Heaven'.

As summer turns to winter, spies reveal there is a plot to assassinate the female samurai while she is paying respects in memory of the dead *daimyo*. The noble lady is usually protected by her rather unreliable companion, the infamous blind martial arts expert 99-Eyes, and a couple of much more capable guards from her household.

Somewhat suspiciously, the one time that 99-Eyes is absent, a ninja suddenly attacks out of nowhere. Custom forbids the lady to defend herself, but her two faithful family retainers instantly spring into action.

The highly skilled household guards make short work of the shadowy assassin. Harmony is restored at the dead lord's shrine and 'The Tears of Heaven' rituals are resumed.

When the year-long mourning period ends, Lady Tomoe Gozen, Japan's most famous *onna-bugeisha*, can arm herself once again and seek vengeance against the enemies of her clan.



'The Tears of Heaven' mourning period begins.



Summer turns into winter.



Blind martial arts expert 99-Eyes guards the lady.



An enemy ninja launches an attack.



The lady's guards kill the assassin.



The lady resumes the required rituals.

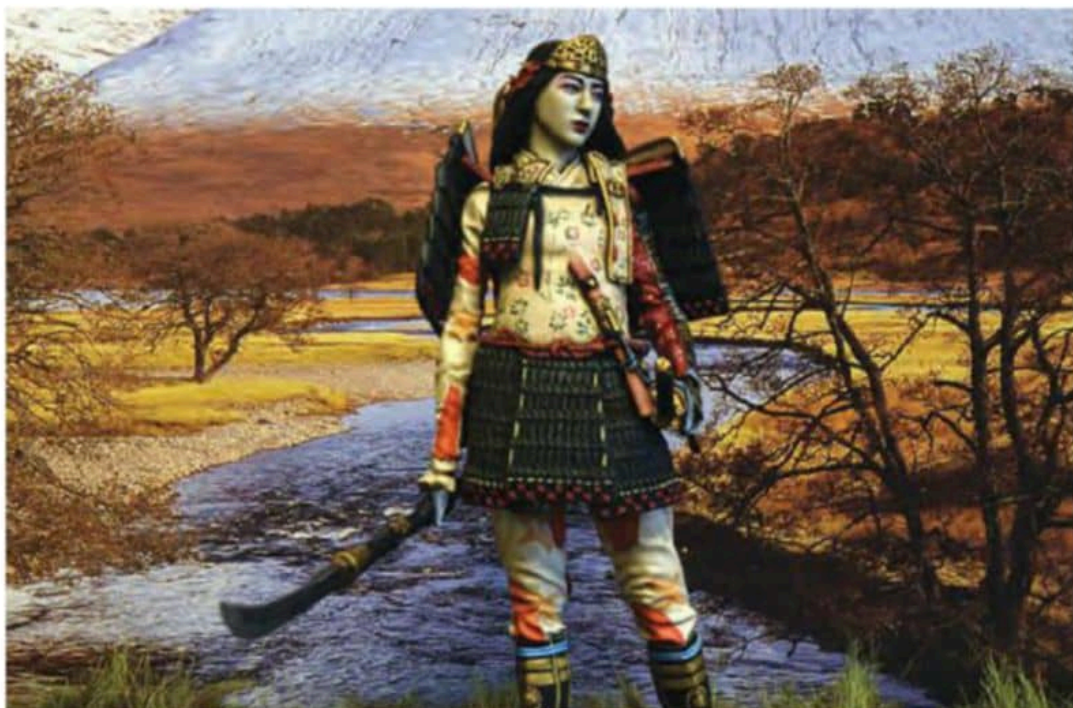


Figure of Lady Tomoe Gozen.

Vignette Notes

I assembled and painted all of these figures except the kneeling lady in the blue kimono, which was commissioned from Attica Miniatures of St Petersburg, Russian Federation, a number of years ago.

The resin household guard figures are 75mm examples from DG-Artwork Miniatures. The 90mm Tomoe Gozen white-metal figure is from Alexandros Models. The vignette base is a wooden kitchen platter normally used for serving food. Basic landscaping was formed from papier mâché with miscellaneous foliage. The bamboo backdrop came

from three different sources for the sake of variety. I used snow from Precision Ice and Snow. It makes an excellent product for creating wintry scenes.

The shrine, Japanese well and other accessories were drawn from my diorama spares box.

The story recounted in this article sprang from my fevered imagination.

Editor's Note: The real Tomoe Gozen served Lord Minamoto no Yoshinaka during the Genpei War in a phase that led to Japan's first shogunate. The female warrior survived the Battle of Awazu and went on to slay and behead enemies. Her story is told in the epic Tale of the Heike that influenced generations of samurai, and she has been celebrated in poems, various books including historical novels, music and movies.

END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Retired engineer Harry Anderson resides with his wife, Lucy, in her hometown in northeast China. He combines several hobbies by modelling small dioramas and using photos from his miniature figure collection to illustrate self-penned fantasy and historical fiction short stories. Harry's interests range from Greek, Celtic and Norse mythology to post-World War II conflicts.

Lace Wars in Tin

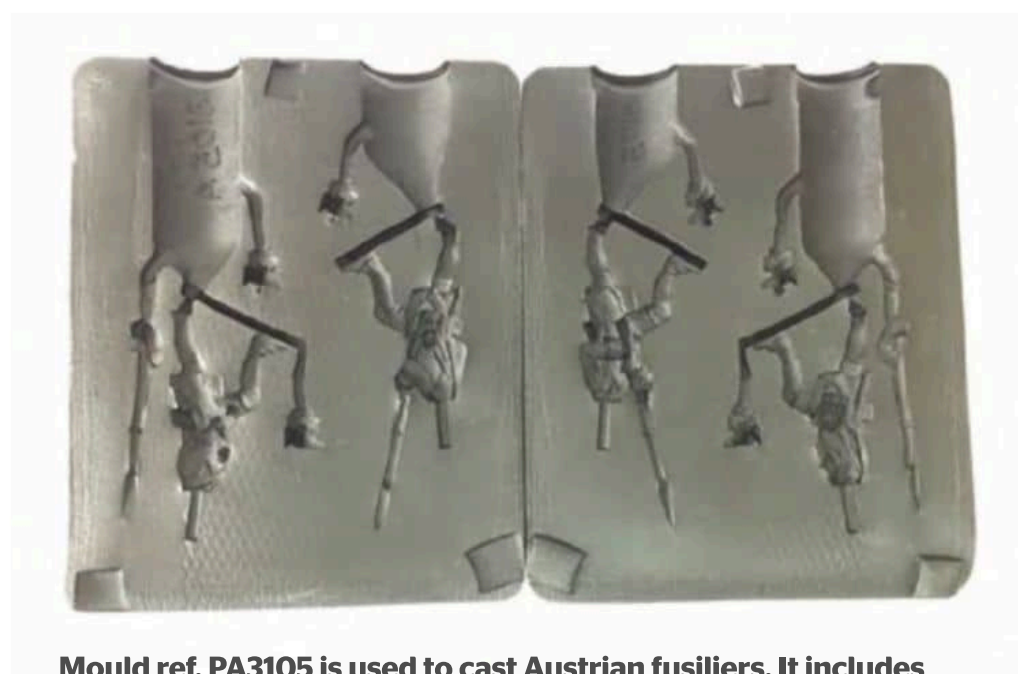
Steve Metherringham maps out wargaming with 40mm semi-flats moulded from a Seven Years War range by Prince August.

Text: Steve Metherringham

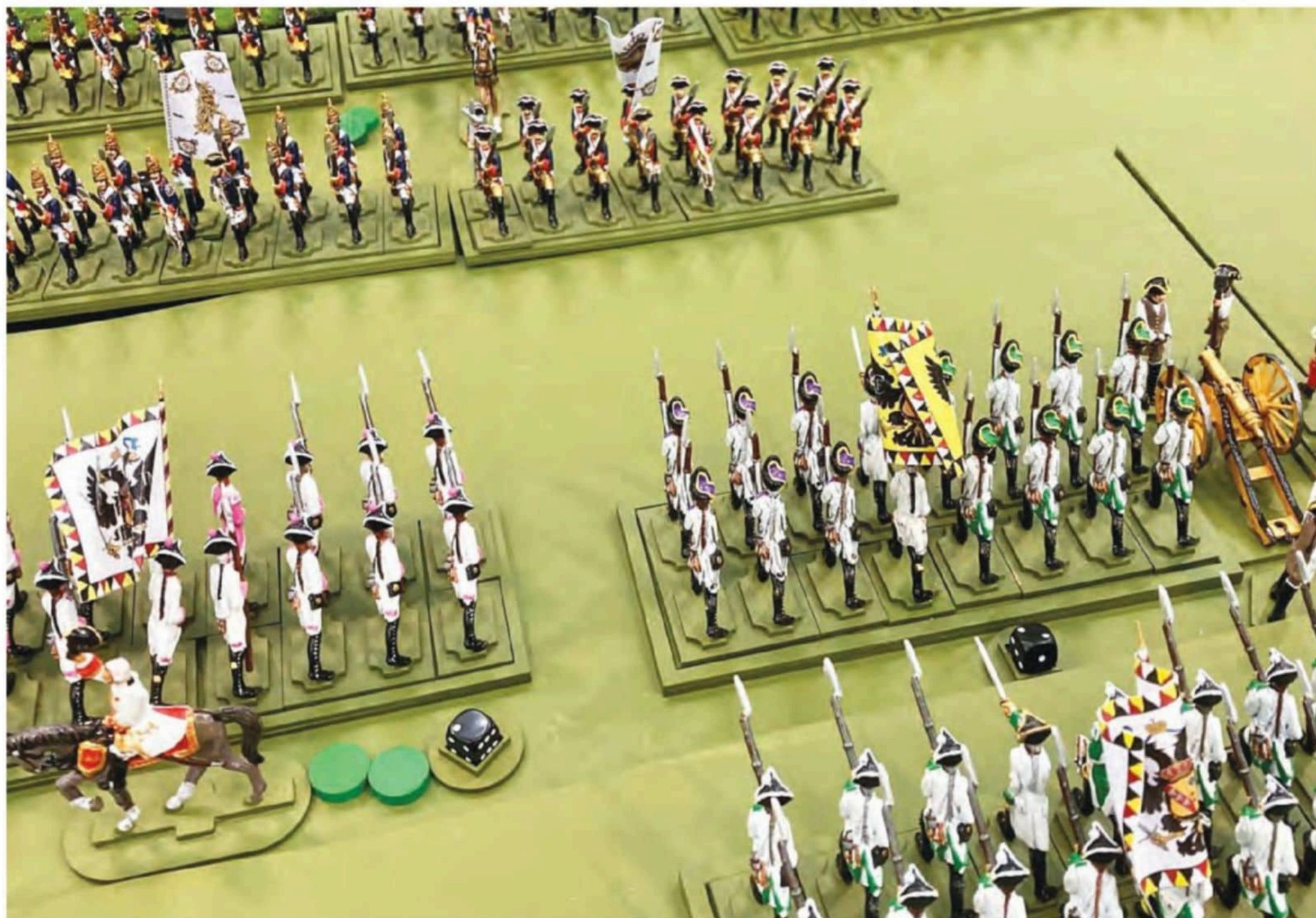
Photos: Steve Metherringham and Prince August

During the last few years, I've been working with Prince August to develop a range of moulds to home-cast 40mm semi-flat wargaming soldiers of the Seven Years War (1756-63). The range includes moulds for most troop types in the Prussian, Austrian, Russian and French armies along with British Highlanders. Reinforcements to fill a few gaps are in the works.

For readers not acquainted with them, semi-flats are perhaps better described as 'half-round'. They are far more substantial than the old German flat figures, but still noticeably flattened. The flattening is primarily to help both the mould making and home-casting processes, both of which need to avoid significant undercuts in the sculpting.



Mould ref. PA3105 is used to cast Austrian fusiliers. It includes heads to convert them into Prussian command figures.



Front and back views of figures from the new Seven Years Wars range showing their semi-flat proportions.

Ericksson Figures

Prince August has been producing moulds to allow casting of 40mm semi-flat figures of the eighteenth century and the Seven Years War for many years. The company was founded in Sweden in 1958 by Jan Edman to produce a range of moulds for hobby casting. In 1976, his son Lars Edman moved production to Ireland, where it continues to produce moulds, casting equipment, related supplies and toy soldiers in varied scales.

Prince August's first eighteenth-century range was sculpted by Holger Eriksson during the 1950s and 1960s to represent Swedish soldiers of the Great Northern War. The master figures were carved from wood and designed to produce two-part plaster moulds that were sold for home-casting figures. Details on the masters had to be rather shallow with no undercuts, as it is not possible to make or repeatedly cast from two-part plaster moulds, if undercuts are present, so the figures were made semi-flat.

By the time Prince August moved production to Ireland, the material used for the moulds had changed to a much more robust rubber. The range is currently labelled as '1700-1760 by Holger Eriksson'. Although the figures are rather dated, they appear in elegant poses that suit the period. In the hands of a skilled painter, the castings can become very attractive soldiers. There have been and still are a fair number of wargamers collecting armies using those figures.

Battle of Rossbach

Following on from the original Eriksson figures came the 'Battle of Rossbach 1757' range based on a clash that occurred in Saxony in the western theatre of the Seven Years War, so it involved mostly soldiers from the French and Prussian armies. This range was sculpted by Chris Tubb using Milliput, which allows finer detail to be added than those carved in wood by Eriksson.

By this time, Prince August was making its moulds in rubber. They are flexible



Eighteenth-century soldiers designed by Holger Eriksson.

and allow casting of fully-round figures with more pronounced details and shallower undercuts than the old rigid plaster moulds. Since semi-flats had a large following, the decision was made to continue that format, albeit in a slightly more rounded profile and with deeper detail. Many of the figures in this range are in dynamic poses not suitable for combining into wargames units, although there are a number which are useful.

Karoliner Range

Later Prince August produced the Karoliner range, again sculpted by Tubb. Many of the figures in that range are updates of Eriksson's earlier ones and retain much of their charm. Again, the semi-flat format was retained to serve the existing customer base, however, they are a little more rounded, better detailed, and easier to cast and paint. Both the Eriksson and Karoliner ranges represent early eighteenth-century Swedish armies with waist belts worn outside of the soldiers' coats. These uniforms are close in style to those worn by mid-eighteenth-century French forces, allowing Prince August to also sell them as 'French Regiments of 1750' and 'Irish Wild Geese', but they are essentially the same moulds in different packaging.

The Karoliner series and the earlier Eriksson range supply good coverage of soldiers who wore uniforms in a similar style to the Swedes. There is, however, limited use for most other mid-eighteenth-century powers due to the following issues:

- By the time of the War of Austrian Succession and Seven Years War, most armies wore their waist belts inside rather than outside their coats.

Karoliner figures from moulds refs. PAI903 and PAI940 painted as 'Irish Wild Geese' infantry in French service.





Mostly Karoliner figures form a display wargame at the Sheffield Triples show in 2012.

- • The Karoliner range only includes soldiers wearing either an early form of tricorne (with the front near horizontal) or a grenadier mitre cap. There were many other headdress styles in use at the time that are not covered in the range, with the most noticeable ones being the bearskin worn by the grenadiers in the Austrian and French armies, the two distinctive mitre caps worn by the Prussian fusiliers and the Russian grenadiers, and the later Prussian-style tricorne with the much steeper front.
- Some types are omitted altogether, such as the distinctive Hungarian and Grenz infantry units in the Austrian army.

The Karoliner range of moulds (along with some from the Rossbach range) allows casting of soldiers to make reasonably complete Seven Years War wargames armies, yet in doing so it has to be accepted that although troops can be painted in the

correct colours, for some nations the underlying uniform details are often far from correct.

On that basis, I've collected quite extensive French and Prussian armies that have been regularly deployed for wargaming, including contributing to a well-received group display game at the 2012 Sheffield Triples wargaming show in the north of England.

Seven Years War

Although semi-flat soldiers have often been cast and used by wargamers, Prince August had not considered them to be part of its target market until 2012 when it started work on a new Seven Years War series. Sculpted by Tubb, this is a standalone range covering all the main nations in the war. Coincidentally perhaps, a few months earlier I had been in touch with Prince August suggesting that it make figures more suitable

for the wargaming market. In response, I was asked to advise on what figures to produce for the maker's proposed new range, and more than ten years later I am still doing so. It was agreed to progress the new range based on the following principles:

- The new soldiers were to be sculpted in poses which would rank up neatly into wargames units, so not appear too dynamic.
- The range is to be as complete as reasonably possible. In addition to the figure types already available in the earlier ranges, it was to include missing soldiers such as Austrian Grenz infantry grenadiers in bearskins and Prussian fusiliers.
- The figures would again be semi-flat and maintain the character of Eriksson's range. This was thought to be the best way to maintain the character of the earlier series, and also allow the units cast from the new

range to be used alongside those from the older lineup. The soldiers who fought in the Seven Years War wore a wide variety of uniform styles. Clearly it is not viable for Prince August to produce nor economical for collectors to buy separate moulds for every combination of clothing, headgear and weaponry. To minimise the number of moulds needed, the new range has therefore been designed to mould a wide enough range of figures to build most Seven Years War armies, without getting too concerned about minor detail such as cuff styles that can just be painted on. For the infantry, the way forward has been to have multi-part figures and 'mix and match' the parts. As a result, a mould might be labelled 'Prussian Officer' for marketing reasons, but it is intended to be used in a number of armies. This approach is based on two concepts:



Prussian guard musketeers cast from moulds refs. PA3102, PA3103 and PA3104. The officer seen in the distance was cast from them. The nearest officer shown came from a later Russian mould.

- The lower parts of all bodies are sculpted with the legs in a similar stance, allowing figures to be swapped between units and still maintain a uniform 'Old School' marching style.
- Heads are separate and fully interchangeable, allowing the same basic bodies to be used for different soldiers. For example, the Prussian infantry can be assembled as musketeers, fusiliers, grenadiers and so on. This is achieved by inserting reusable PTFE rods into the mould to form a socket in the body to accept the peg on the head.

The first four new moulds to go on sale (refs. PA3101 to PA3104) were Prussian infantry. These contained eight figures to allow casting of an officer, standard bearer, drummers (with and without arm decorations), non-commissioned officer and rank and file in both advancing and march attack poses. Units cast from these moulds can be fitted with

different heads to represent musketeers, fusiliers, grenadiers and guards. Next came Austrian fusiliers from mould ref. PA3105. To minimise the number of moulds needed, 'Prussian' moulds are used for the command figures with Austrian heads substituted. Unlike the Prussians, the

Austrian fusiliers did not carry a sword, so a new mould has been provided for the rank-and-file figures providing both the advancing and march attack poses, plus the heads for both the fusiliers and those needed to convert the 'Prussian' command figures. The methodology adopted above for the first five

releases demonstrates the approach taken to maximise the use of each mould. At the time of this writing in January 2024, there were more than twenty moulds available for casting the 'heavy' infantry units for Prussia, Austria, Hungary, Russia and France. In addition, a set of Highlander moulds have been released as the vanguard of British infantry plans. Moulds are also available to make light infantry such as *pandours*, *freikorps* and *jäger* units. The remaining major gap in the range of infantry moulds is British line infantry, which hopefully will be added in the future.

Partway through sculpting the infantry, the decision was made to change to digital sculpting. The Prussian, Austrian, Hungarian and Russian infantry were hand sculpted (moulds refs. PA3101-3112). The French infantry and other moulds that followed (ref. PA3103 onward) were done digitally. A lot of effort was put into maintaining consistency, so the range fits together well, but there is a slight change in style between the two parts of the range.



Prussian fusiliers cast from moulds refs. PA3101, PA3102 and PA3103.

→ Cavalry Figures

Cavalry from all nations was mostly equipped in a similar manner, the main types being cuirassiers, dragoons, and hussars. Although combatant nations had similar types of cavalry, there was quite a few variations in their uniforms, particularly in the styles of headdress such as tricorner, mitre caps, bearskins and helmets. To minimise the number of moulds needed, the mix and match approach was used again.

To form cavalry units, it was decided the moulds should include four figures: an officer, standard bearer, musician and trooper. Separate parts are provided for heads (I find the heads included in the dragoon moulds to be on the small side, so I use heads from the infantry with which they are interchangeable), right arms to allow an outstretched arm position (in a one-piece castings these would not be robust enough for the mould making process), and carbines to give the option of carrying them or not. The use of multiple parts means the models need a fair bit of time for assembly, however, the results are worth the extra effort. The separate right arm also allows the same horse and body to be used for more than one purpose. For example, the dragoon trooper and standard bearer are the same basic figure, but with different arms.

Hussars and Austrian cuirassiers are also available. There is an issue with the size of the cuirassiers because they are too large relative to the other figures. In my opinion, they are very fine figures for collecting as individual castings, but not suitable for use alongside the rest of the range in wargaming armies. Hopefully Prince August will reprint the

cuirassiers to the correct size in the future.

Artillery

A single artillery set is available. The basic model is an Austrian 6-pounder gun with extra barrels for an Austrian 7-pounder howitzer, a Prussian light 12-pounder gun and a Russian 12-pounder unicorn all of which were mounted on similar size carriages. To avoid the need to represent the uniforms of all the different nations, crewmen moulds sold separately create a total of four generic gunners in shirtsleeves and head styles for the main nations, including some with helmets for bombardiers in Russian and Prussian service.

Future Plans

The range now includes moulds to cast most of the troop types from the armies of Prussia, Austria-Hungary, Russia and France. Within these ranges there are still a few types which it would be good to add such as:

- Prussian cuirassiers, however, there are figures available in the older Rossbach range that look fine with a little conversion work to give them new heads.
- Russian cavalry who wore their belts outside the coat. In this case, a head swap for cavalry from the Karoliner range does the job.
- Generic artillery crewmen in coats rather than shirtsleeves.
- A complete range of British troops to reinforce the Highlanders.

Semi-Flats Wargaming

The Seven Years War range is in many ways a development of Eriksson's semi-flats. He also sculpted the Spencer Smith range of 30mm figures that feature prominently in classic wargames books such as *The War Game*



Prussian grenadiers cast from moulds refs. PA3101, PA3102 and PA3103 for the Guards 3rd Battalion. I always like to include a flag though the real composite grenadier battalions did not carry them.



Austrian fusiliers including rank-and-file figures cast from mould ref. PA3105 and command group figures from 'Prussian' moulds refs. PA3105, PA3101 and PA3102 with replacement heads.



Dragoon mould ref. PA3126 showing the separate arm and head.

(1971) by Charles Grant and *Charge! Or How to Play War Games* (1970) by Brigadier Peter Young and Lieutenant Colonel J.P. Lawford. I think the latter is the best wargames book ever written. Both books are still available as paperback reprints, however, if you can find one treat yourself to a second-hand hardback copy because they look so much better on the bookshelf!

Prince August's new soldiers in the Seven Years War range maintain much of the character of the old Eriksson range, which in turn has similarities in style with the Spencer Smith soldiers pictured in those classic books. My desire to collect armies with the 'Old School' feel of the ones in those books is what inspired me to collect armies cast from Prince August's moulds.

My original plan was to use the 40mm figures to play by the rules in either *Charge* or *The War Game*. The rules in both books use large units that certainly look impressive, but to get the benefit of the large units they need a lot of figures and a big table. I dallied with 'Old School' rules for a couple of years, but

found they needed a lot of time to play and we rarely finished a game. Perhaps now that I'm retired, I just need opponents who also have lots of time on their hands.

Having tried the 'Old School' rules, I decided to use the semi-flats with more recent sets. All the rules I currently use have smaller units typically based around four elements to a unit, so my they are organised with sixteen figures in the infantry and eight in the cavalry. The three rules sets I currently use most often are:

- *A Gentleman's War: Or Glossy Coats and Tin Bayonets* (2019) by Howard Whitehouse with assistance from Dan Foley is a set of rules with ordinary playing cards used to decide the sequence in which groups of units move. They were written for use with classic toy soldiers of the late nineteenth-century period and described

as for use 'in the era of William Britain and HG Wells', but there are also eighteenth-century modifications included. These rules are for are a 'toy soldier' game and are good fun. If you want to play a game with your shiny toy soldiers and throw lots of dice, this is a good rules set to try first.

- *Maurice: War in an Age of Gentlemen and Philosophers, 1690-1790* (2012) by Sam A. Mustafa is another set of rules with the action card driven. In this case, however, the cards are a special set which not only determine the sequence in which groups of units move, but also allow events to occur that influence the game. This card system makes the rules best suited to just one player per side. A Maurice Lite version is available as a free download from the internet.

- *Field of Battle 3rd Edition: Piquet 1642-1900* (2020) by

Brent Oman is another set of rules with a card-driven move sequence (I do like card driven games). In this case, the bespoke card system does not restrict players to moving small groups of units at a time. Instead, it dictates what the whole army can do, for example, moving infantry or firing artillery. This means they work just as well with multiple players on each side as they do with a one-to-one matchup. I tend to host multi-player games, so this is the set of rules I currently use the most.

Organising Units

It might be thought that these 40mm figures need a big table to play on, but that isn't really the case. The figures are semi-flats, so a 20mm wide base is big enough for both the infantry and cavalry, which is similar to 28mm figures. The base depth needs to be 30mm for infantry and 60mm for cavalry, so slightly more than for 28mm, but not likely to be an issue in this period of linear warfare.

After a few false starts, I organised my infantry units so they could be used either as a single 32-figure regiment for use in accordance with 'Old School' rules such as *Charge* and *The War Game* or as two sixteen-figure battalions for use using more recent rules. Cavalry are in eight figure units with the same frontage as the infantry, which keeps things nice and neat.



Gun barrel for a Prussian light 12-pounder (mould ref. PA3117) and crew in shirtsleeves (moulds refs. PA3118 and PA3119).



→ I'm very happy with the way it has all turned out. When we put on a participation game based on the Battle of Prague in 1757 at the UK's 2022 Hammerhead show, it was very well received. A YouTube video of the game can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PL4RiFIOq3k.

Conclusion

The Seven Years War range now includes moulds to cast forces of Prussia, Austria, Russia and France, with Britain to follow. There are still a few gaps, but hopefully those should be filled by future releases or alternatively by using conversions from Prince August's older ranges. Although 40mm tall, these are semi-flats, so they can be used on the same base widths, table size and rules as would be used for 'normal' 28mm games.

As for the rules, if you want to play a fun game with an 'Old School' feel I would suggest trying the rules format from *A Gentleman's War*, but using smaller units than described in the book because they work fine. There are now a lot of moulds in the range and more to come, so buying them all

would be a very significant outlay. If you want to give it a try, I suggest start small with just a few moulds. For instance, three moulds would enable casting the infantry for one's chosen nation. If a tabletop general fancies 'imagination' armies, then you could make do with just one set to do the lot. If you decide to progress further, then by adding the dragoon and the artillery moulds you can put together a couple of good starter armies.

If you have not done casting before, I suggest visiting the Prince August website (shop.princeaugust.ie) to watch helpful tutorial videos showing how to cast figures using molten metal safely, learn what equipment and supplies are needed, and select moulds. The website also has full details of the Karoliner and Rossbach ranges, some of which can be used alongside the Seven Years War moulds. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Steve Metherringham is a retired structural engineer. The UK resident has been a keen wargamer since his mid-teens, with a long-standing interest in the Lace Wars era having been inspired by the classic books *The War Game* (1971) by Charles Grant and *Charge! Or How to Play War Games* (1970) by Brigadier Peter Young and Lieutenant Colonel J.P. Lawford. Since 2012 he has been advising Prince August on figures for its range of 40mm Seven Years War semi-flat moulds. He has cast and painted a number of wargames armies using them. For more details, visit his blog at <https://lacewarsintin.blogspot.com/>.



A Prussian attack is launched on the Austrian right flank during a wargame based on the Battle of Prague in 1757 during the 2022 Hammerhead show.

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Eight 50mm Legion troops painted in traditional gloss by an unknown maker.

Spanish Foreigners Regiment

Fights in Colonial Campaigns

A.J. Mergenthaler recounts the origin and history of the *Tercio de Extranjeros*.

Text and Photos: A.J. Mergenthaler

The *Tercio de Extranjeros*, commonly known as the Spanish Foreign Legion, was modelled after the French Foreign Legion, but the latter was mainly composed of soldiers from many different nations. In contrast, the Spanish unit was predominately made up of native Spaniards.

The Legion was created by royal decree of King Alfonso XIII on 28 January 1920. Foreigners were not easy to recruit at the time, so most of the men actually hailed from Spain. The Republic of Cuba was the main source of its few foreign members. Spain had a long history of recruiting foreigners to reinforce its armed forces, but the twentieth-century's *Tercio de Extranjeros* (Tercio of Foreigners) was formed to provide shock troops to fight in colonial campaigns in North Africa beginning with the Rif War of 1921-26.

The light infantry unit's title was changed to the *Tercio of Marruecos* (Tercio of Morocco) in 1925. The word *tercio* translates to 'third', an old Spanish military term roughly equivalent to the English word regiment. The unit's founding commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel José Millán-Astray y Terreros, referred to it as *La Legión*, but it did not become part of the unit's official title until 1937. Prior to the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, future dictator Francisco Franco was second in command of the regiment and led the 1st Legion *Bandera* (Banners).

Rif War Service

Morocco had become a protectorate of France and Spain in 1912. Both countries lost thousands of soldiers in a series of costly battles during the Rif War.

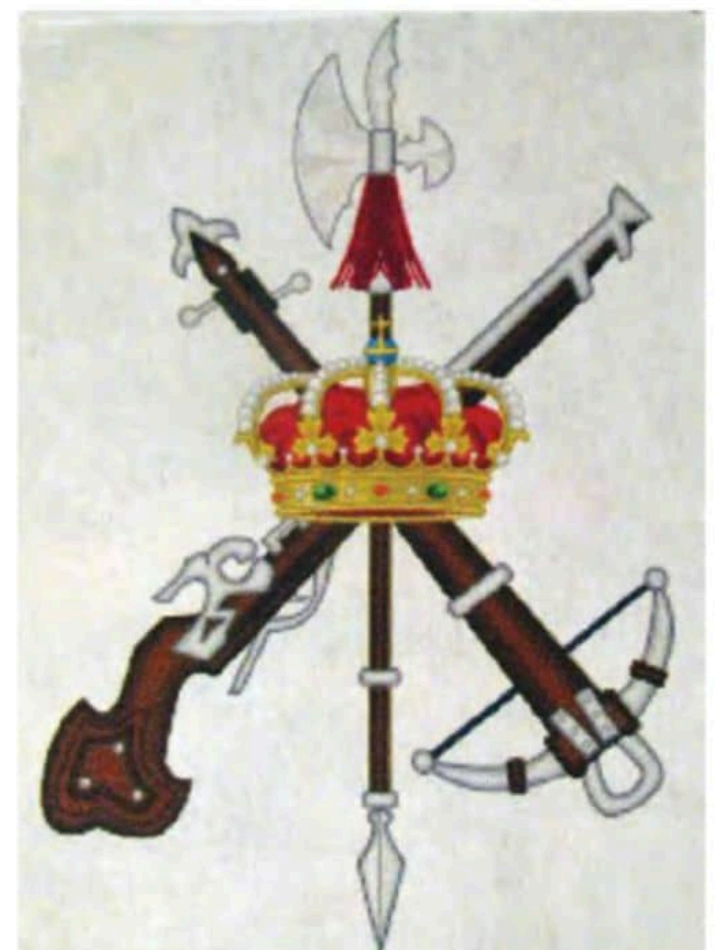
Berber tribes of the mountainous Rif region in northern Morocco formed the Rif Republic. Led by Abd el-Kim, its fighters used captured European weapons and guerrilla tactics to defeat

their adversaries and keep the colonial powers at bay for a while until ultimately being defeated by the combined forces of Spain's Army of Africa, including the Legion. The success achieved by

Spanish forces in Morocco was aided by loyal native *Regulares* first formed in 1913.



Badge of the Spanish Legion.





New Hope Design 50mm flat figure of a colour sergeant with the Spanish national flag painted by the author.



Julia 54mm figure of Francisco Franco, who was second in command of the Legion in North Africa.



A 54mm personality figure made in Spain by Julia of Madrid depicting Lieutenant Colonel José Millán-Astray y Terreros, the Legion's first commander. He sided with the Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War.



Julia 54mm figures of a private and an officer of the Legion circa 1920-1930s.



Private and officer of the native Regulares by Julia in 54mm scale.

Civil War and Beyond

It has been estimated that around 30,000 Legion and *Regulares* troops were sent to the Spanish mainland after the Civil War erupted. They become the elite troops of the Nationalist faction forces led by Franco and played a major part in his eventual victory over the Republicans.

The Spanish Legion is still an active military force. After conscription ended in 2001, the Legion began accepting many male and female recruits from Central and South America into its ranks. The unique Spanish unit is still recognised as an elite military force to this day.

My toy soldier and model figure collection includes painted metal Legion figures by various makers. END



A 50mm flat figure by an unknown maker depicts a modern flag bearer of the Tercio Saharaiano that fought for Spain in a short war to hold onto its western Sahara possessions against locals supported by Morocco during 1957-58.



A 54mm flat figure by an unknown maker depicts a modern Spanish infantryman armed with a Heckler & Koch G36E assault rifle.

ABOUT THE WRITER

A.J. Mergenthaler was a co-owner of TBC Graphics, a typesetting and printing company, in New York City and Rockland County, New York, USA. After the business was acquired by Bowne & Co., he became vice president and sales manager of Intergraphic Technology and Action Graphics. The retiree is a long-time toy soldier and model figure collector. He has also contributed articles to several hobby and history-related publications through the years. In addition, he was one of the founders of the Military Historical Society.



Malleable Mouldings started up in 1947 and made or sourced figures in both metal and plastic, largely based on designs by Holger Eriksson. Boss Fred Winkler, an expert 1/1200 model ship designer formerly of Wiking and Treforest mouldings, had associations with Authenticast and ended up joining his friends in South Africa after 1953 to help them with SAE. He had investigated the high-end metal model market without much success and made an abortive attempt to do plastic toy soldiers, probably at much the same time as Herald started up. This might well explain why there are so few Malleable Mouldings plastic figures around today. (Author's Collection)

Talking Toy Soldiers with James Opie

Problems with Plastic

James Opie delves into how heralding plastic figures as being 'unbreakable' has turned out to be an oxymoron.

Text and Photos: James Opie

WARNING: Plastic toy soldiers are more fragile than metal ones! Generally speaking, dropping a hollow-cast metal toy soldier from waist height onto a carpet will probably not harm it. Nevertheless, it might during play end up scratched, limbless, headless, bent or crushed. No wonder that parents welcomed 'unbreakable' plastic figures with open purses. Children took a more cynical view of their new toys and decided to subject them to their usual consumer tests. In short order, their figures ended up snapped, snapped, wavy weaponed, dirty, paintless and chewed. (Schleich now advertises its products as 'saliva proof').

Collectors like me obediently went out and bought as many different types of the new style models as they could afford. I once had the opportunity to buy three trade boxes of twelve Timpo Roman mounted signifiers at a trade discount when they first came out in 1967 but decided not to.

In the fullness of time, and to my great dismay, I found out that if I was clumsy, the possibility of dropping a plastic figure and having it break rather than bounce was real. Thus was I introduced around 55 years ago to the phenomenon of 'snapped plastic'. Since then, I have mentioned the problems with plastic in every appropriate book I have had published.

Great Experiment To Exploit Plastics

The early years of plastic toy soldiers were a heady mix of juggling with all sorts of factors to achieve the right toys at the right price. Much experimentation was needed to match the injection-moulding machine with the perfect plastic, using paints that adhered rather than flaking off, and making great master figures with more realism and

animation than ever before owing to the new materials.

Many collectors have their own theories about why plastic figures are far from indestructible. One reason that has sounded plausible to me is that there were problems with bulking out the polythene used by Herald in the 1950s to make sure that the plastic properly filled moulds – particularly larger moulds. After much thought,



Robin Eyre-Tanner very kindly gave me one of his immaculate early Airfix 54mm cavalry. Trade ads show that this figure, made from a fairly hard but slightly flexible plastic that could well be polystyrene, pre-dated both the first Airfix plastic kit and the early cellulose acetate plastic figures of Malleable Mouldings. (Author's Collection)

it seemed that this could be cured by adding a chalk-based filler to the plastic. It worked and it had the extra advantage of giving the plastic mixture a better key as far as adhesion of the paint was concerned. Also, because the chalk was relatively cheap, the combined raw material was less expensive, so the moulders, painters and accountants were all happy.

Word of the improvements got around in toy soldier manufacturing circles and soon most people were doing it in the UK, but over time there were problems. Whether the chalk degraded the strength of the plastic, or the mixture didn't have the right proportions, there were increasing instances of fragilities among collections.

From the various instances of breakages happening, it seemed that all sorts of variations in filler or plasticiser mix, atmospheric conditions, rough handling, storage conditions or accidental drops could result in brittleness or damage. One such accidental drop that took place in my own toy soldier room while I was sorting soldiers for photography is illustrated on page 503 of *The Great Book of Britains* (1993). More recently, I placed all the late John Ruddle's 243-piece Eyes Right collection into one auction lot because more than half of them were damaged,



Unauthorised copying was one of the worst problems that makers of toy soldiers had to endure. Since Herald made the best toy soldiers, it was the go-to manufacturer to have its figures pirated. Copies of Herald, real Herald and Hilco figures are shown from the left. A larger version of this cameo could well have been the first I ever exhibited at a British Model Soldier Society event around 1963. (Author's Collection)

suggesting that most or all the remaining figures could be brittle and at risk.

Conditions optimum for storing plastics appear to be almost diametrically opposed to those for metals. Plastics seem to like near humid warmth. Metals appear to prefer dry and cool conditions. Excessive heat or cold will probably be harmful to both, and certainly neither type should ever be left out in the sun.

Flexible Polythene, Stiff Polystyrene

Some early plastics producers, for instance the pioneer maker Malleable Mouldings, used cellulose acetate to mould their plastic figures

(they started out with metal ones). The two types of plastics most used for the next generation of toy soldiers and models have very different properties. Polythene and similar plastic is flexible and rubbery, ideal, so it seemed, for toy soldiers to be thrown about on the floor. Polystyrene or similar synthetics are stiff and inflexible, very suitable for plastic model kits and bond well, if the right glue is used. The stiff plastic was rather more apt to have thin parts break. For the sake of simplicity, the two types of plastics most widely used can be called flexible or stiff. Paint adhered much better to the stiff plastics than the flexible types.

Flexible Polythene, PVC and Polypropylene have been the plastics of choice for British and American makers. In the USA, most Marx plastics and playsets were flexible with tinplate buildings, although the Marx UK Swansea factory reissued several of the 60mm series in stiff Polystyrene.

The stiff types of plastic were more favoured by Continental Europe's manufacturers such as Segom, Starlux and Elastolin. The most prolific maker was Historex, but the disadvantage was that its completed or converted models with their finely modelled parts are extremely fragile and almost impossible to transport without damage to their extremities.

Timpo straightforwardly transferred several metal series into plastic. These British infantry have somewhat shrunk in the process. Plastic at left with metal originals on the right. (Author's Collection)



→ To Paint Or Not To Paint, That Is the Question

Many manufacturers of metal figures hoped that they could simply convert their existing metal models to plastic using the same masters.

Quiralu, king of the aluminium figure, had only just helped Wend-AI launch truly unbreakable figures into the British market when the new Herald plastics hit the shops in 1953. Wend-AI never recovered. When Starlux came out with plastic ranges in France, Quiralu tried to use its aluminium figures as masters for plastics but failed. Everyone in Britain and Continental Europe wanted to continue to sell painted toy soldiers rather than sell unpainted ones as Marx had started to do in the USA. Timpo, Hill, Cherilea, Crescent and Charbens also tried to convert their existing metal figures. These make an interesting collecting cameo grouping but could not compare with the new Herald master figures.

The firms that survived, including new entrant Lone Star, were the ones who not only made suitable new models for the plastic era but undercut the Herald price by 9d. using the extra profits enabled by the new material. Individual Herald figure prices were 1/3d. when they first came out.

Even Britains tried to convert animals and it marketed the very hollow-cast lookalike Eyes Right figures.



Cherilea smaller size plastic Highlanders in an early window box circa 1960. (Author's Collection)



Cavendish Miniatures only ever produced fifteen models as far as I know, but they were all mastered by Charles C. Stadden and thus stand out among the crowd. These are the mid-eighteenth-century range. (Author's Collection)

Britains was only saved by the canny Dennis Britain buying Herald and most of its staff and contacts, notably Roy Selwyn-Smith and Charlie Biggs, lock, stock and barrel. Even then, it took further innovation and price cuts to see off the 6p competition. Eventually by 1973, Britains and Timpo were the last two standing, with Timpo going under in 1982.

Packaging was also becoming more complex because of the use of plastics for window boxes, which came into vogue during the 1960s. The result was that far fewer boxes survived in good condition than with the traditional lid and tray boxes. Plastic bags with header



Quiralu tried to convert its aluminium figures to plastic, but these are the only ones I have ever seen. (Author's Collection)

cards were a good substitute at low cost and showed off the product. The rarity of surviving packaging from this era continues to imply a large premium when buying sets of plastics with excellent or even merely good condition boxes.

The search was also on for ways to cut down the amount of hand painting needed. Figures made up of self-coloured parts and/or plastic overmoulding seemed viable possibilities, but the downsides were that parts got lost and only Timpo properly understood overmoulding. Also, there was trouble recording what were true original issues when parts could be swapped over. For example, the Britains Swoppet knights appeared to be randomised.

However, there was a lot more fun and sometimes mischief to be had with the resale of true and false rarities. Herald Swoppets, a Roy Selwyn Smith invention, were launched by Britains in 1958, and proved so popular that for a time they became the backbone of the company's income. Despite the fact that

Charbens cowboy and Indian jigsaw duo. (Author's Collection)





Kleeware plastic vehicles come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but the ones I like most are the sort of lorries that look very similar to the ones issued by Lone Star in metal, with plastic operators. The Kleeware types were produced in stiff khaki polystyrene with operators that were of a smaller scale than the trucks. My brother had the one with the searchlight in about 1952. The designs came from the USA, where they were distributed by Pyro. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)



Sets of inferior plastic toy soldiers, often copies and produced in Hong Kong or China, were inevitably a headache for regular makers. They include most of the billions of Green Army Men. Interestingly, I have never seen a cheap set of toy soldiers of this nature that was not thoroughly durable. (Author's Collection)



The magnificent Elastolin polystyrene Roman chariot, 70mm size. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)

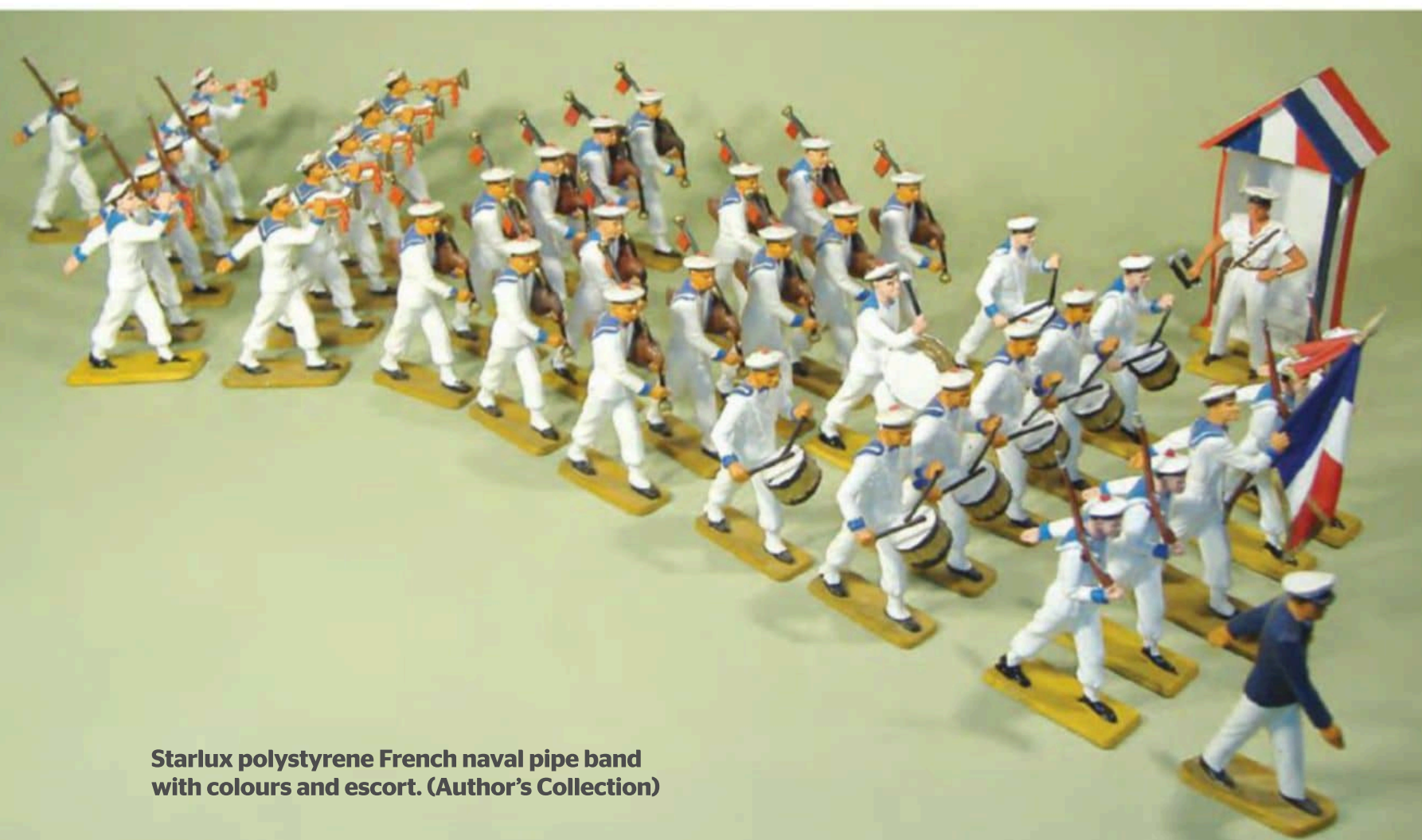
Roco Minitanks issued World War II leaders in both 1/35 and HO scales in polystyrene. (Author's Collection)



the Deetail series took over this revenue role on the plastic toy soldier side of things later on, the idea of the poseable figure was copied by nearly all the Britains painted figure competitors, who had to scramble to come up with similar products.

In the USA, Marx had led the toy soldier market with its \$1 bags of 50 unpainted 54mm figures and their attractive playsets. There were hardly any commercial hand-painted toy soldiers at all over there.

In 1959, Airfix entered the virtually non-existent in the UK unpainted plastic toy soldier market in OO-gauge size. A fair bit later, Airfix expanded its unpainted plastic range into 1/32 scale, Matchbox joined them, and the writing was on the wall for the 54mm commercially hand-painted toy soldier in Europe.



Starlux polystyrene French naval pipe band with colours and escort. (Author's Collection)



Flexible figures found for me by my mother on holiday in Turkey and polystyrene figures from Brazil reminiscent of US Dimestore mouldings in metal. (Author's Collection)

Swoppets, whose parts could be made of different coloured plastic, were able to reduce the amount of painting needed, but then of course they had to be assembled. (Author's Collection)



→ As more child-friendly figures emerged and succeeded, the unpainted figures that Marx had pioneered in the States formed a clearly distinctive worldwide genre of models produced to portray every conflict ever fought in both small scale and 54mm size. Those were the successors for older children and adults.

Successors for Kids

Today's young children still play with painted plastic figures, and the current winners are the German company Schleich. It had 440 employees and sales of 188.7 million euros in 2020, with half its sales being exports.

Schleich started making plastic figures in the 1950s. It sold 40 million of them in 60 countries in 2022, ranking it as a worthy heir to Elastolin.

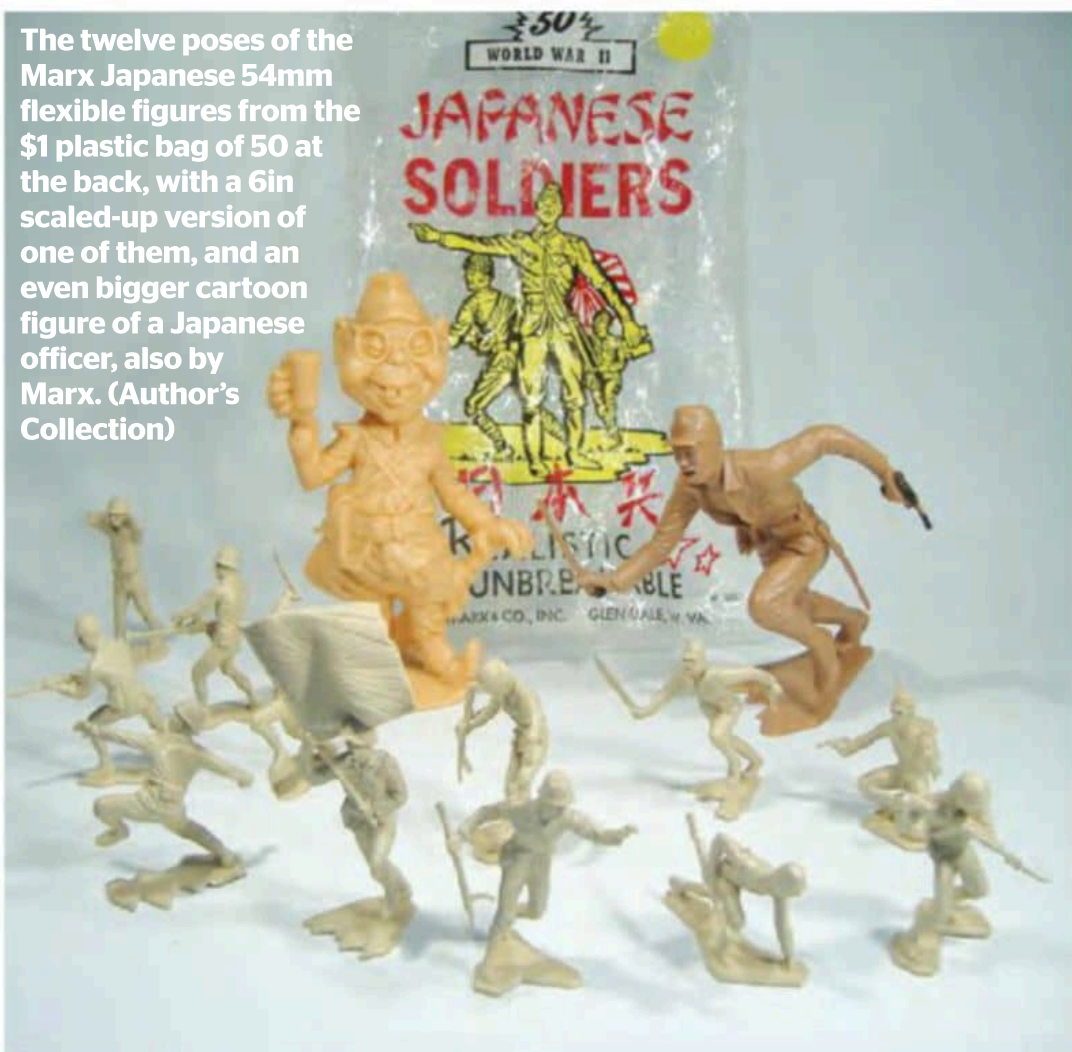
From 1980, Schleich changed from sales mostly based on children's comics such as *The Smurfs* series to creating highly realistic farm, wildlife and dinosaur ranges that have completely replaced Britains in toyshops. Schleich and its competitors, such as Bully and Simba in Germany and Papo and Plastoy in France, have by now a surprisingly long history (44 years) of producing excellently sculpted and painted 80mm toys aimed at the three to eight-year-old children's market.

These toys are very similar in size to the hugely successful *Star Wars* 3¾" in poseable character figures that date back to 1978. Ingenious meth-

ods of masking, stamping or adding decals help reduce the amount of hand painting to a minimum.

One might also include as toy figures the thousands of different LEGO Minifigures with their competitors, who have been less wary of military subjects. While not exactly realistic, it is impossible not to be drawn to a world that can be reconstructed at will and occupied by 40mm little people. Coincidentally, Minifigures were first released

An Airfix D-Day 00-gauge carded set gave you an instant wargame that most children did not bother to paint. (Author's Collection)

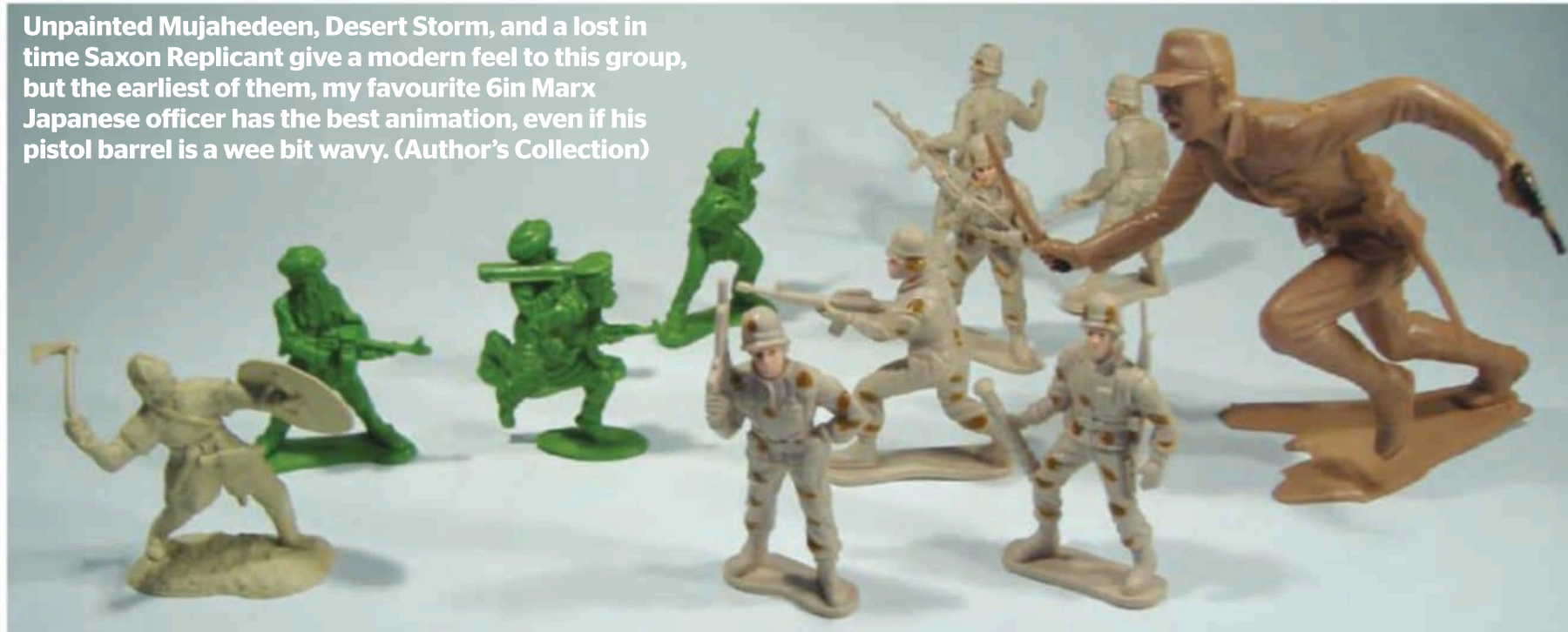


The twelve poses of the Marx Japanese 54mm flexible figures from the \$1 plastic bag of 50 at the back, with a 6in scaled-up version of one of them, and an even bigger cartoon figure of a Japanese officer, also by Marx. (Author's Collection)



Airfix's first shot at 1/32-scale unpainted troops was the paratroopers. (Author's Collection)

Unpainted Mujahedeen, Desert Storm, and a lost in time Saxon Replicant give a modern feel to this group, but the earliest of them, my favourite 6in Marx Japanese officer has the best animation, even if his pistol barrel is a wee bit wavy. (Author's Collection)



Charlie Chaplin, Asterix, Tintin, Mickey Mouse, Madonna and Mr Bump are iconic examples of the myriad of character figures produced in plastic during the past 60 years. (Author's Collection)



FEATURE: HOBBY HISTORY & COLLECTING

unpainted figures in plastic to have problems of that sort. I look forward to seeing both old and new items at the next Plastic Warrior Show on Saturday, 18 May, held as usual at the Winning Post, Chertsey Road, Whitton TW2 6LS.



Smurfs played a major part in the success of Schleich, and still do. Here is a selection, although I am not sure how many if any of these were made by Schleich. (Author's Collection)

with full animation also in 1978, and reputedly more than a billion have been sold (actually, that seems rather a low estimate to me). The other competitor aimed at children has been Playmobil, which first appeared on the market in Ger-

many in 1974 in 75mm scale. From 1974 to 2009, sales of its figures were said to be 2.2 billion. Naturally enough, all four of the above types of plastic figures now have their adult collectors, and so the game continues.

It is now more than 70 years since plastic toy figures appeared on the market and about 45 years since the toyshop market for figures settled down to roughly the shape it is right now, with Schleich replacing Britains as the go-to provider of well-sculpted and painted animals. I still handle my own surviving early plastics with great care, just hoping they won't show signs of cracking or turn out to have been made of a dodgy mixture that deteriorates with time. It is rare for the wide range of current toys or historical

- Recommended Literature**
- *Suspended Animation: An Unauthorised History of Herald and Britains Plastic Figures* authored by Peter Cole and published in 1997 by *Plastic Warrior*.
 - *The Toy Soldier Artistry of Holger Eriksson: Authenticast, S.A.E. and Malleable Mouldings: Military History in Miniature* authored and self-published in 2018 by author Lou Sandbote in conjunction with Norman Joplin and Philip Dean.
 - UK-based *Plastic Warrior* magazine. END

Video game characters made into movies that then have character figures made of them for children not yet old enough to play video games. (Author's Collection)



Schleich Harry Potter, a new series started in 2023, a testament to the enduring popularity of the Wizarding World. (Author's Collection)



Waiting for my Eyes Right figures to deteriorate. Did Britains do the little display stands so that you didn't have to handle them too much? (Author's Collection)

ABOUT THE WRITER

James Opie has written several books about toy soldiers. He was the editor of the Military and Aviation Book Society for decades. He has also prepared toy soldier auction catalogues for 45 years, currently at C&T Auctioneers. James serves on the National Committee of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS). He welcomes email correspondence on any toy soldier topics at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk.

Fantastic Plastics

Kent Welch covers collectable plastic figures.

Backyard Battalion

Relive the Fun of Childhood Battles

Kent Welch reviews makers' latest and greatest plastic figures to be released into the hobby for collectors.

Reviewed by Kent Welch

Most of us can remember spending hours as children running through our neighbourhood's side lots or backyards playing 'war' or 'soldiers' with our friends. Perhaps you pretended to be the Confederates, Alamo defenders or even your GI father at Juno Beach on World War II's D-Day 80 years ago. Whatever the setting, and wherever you lived, you and your friends, ran, hid and attacked foes from the houses down the way, and had a great time doing it! The whole neighbourhood was your battlefield as shouts and laughter could be heard along with cries of "I got you!" Now American Reis O'Brien and his nostalgic new figure line, Backyard Battalion, have captured that feeling for all of us in two new sets of excellent plastic toy soldiers.

Pro Toy Designer

These are unique plastic figures because instead of being standard models of real soldiers in combat, they represent rather cartoonish children fighting backyard battles. Reis recounted, "It started out as wouldn't this be a fun idea and I began drawing them for my sanity. Then I thought, wait a minute, I think I could get these made, and I think people would like them."

Expert quality and design elements of these whimsical

Examples of each type of bagged set.



figures immediately let a beholder know that they are not a novice's work.

"I am a lifelong toy collector," Reis said. "I knew what I was doing with these and I worked with a sculptor." He added, "I am a professional toy designer, so I've worked on a lot of toy lines from Funko Pops to Star Wars and Marvel. In addition, I have been a fan of toy soldiers -- specifically plastic stuff, like army men -- ever since I was a kid. I love a big bag of Tim Mee figures or similar brands."



Figures from the Backyard Battalion 'Series One Pack - Olive Green'. Each bagged set comes with fourteen pieces and a vinyl playmat. In addition, a cut-out tent is supplied on the back of the header card.

FEATURE: HOBBY HISTORY & COLLECTING



Even a neighbourhood dog is geared up for action.



A machine gunner armed with a stick braces for an attack.



Figures from the 'Series One Pack - Dusty Tan' provide opposition.

Figures for Fun

These figures have a fun and consistent design feel. Reis stated, "First, I wanted to capture the nostalgia and my lifelong love of plastic soldiers, second my love of playing war with my friends as a kid, and third I wanted them to have a Saturday morning cartoon world look."

The maker has launched Backyard Battalion with two different 'Series One Packs' made up of pieces coloured either 'Dusty Tan' or 'Olive Green'. Either set costs \$15 US, but a collector can save a little money by buying both for \$28. Each variant comes with thirteen poses and one stretcher. In classic plastic toy soldier fashion, the sculpts supplied are the same for each colour.

"I did the two colours because you gotta have enemies like the kids down the street or from the block over," Reis mused.

Makeshift Weapons

Reis learned much of his approach to figure design from mentors, other toy soldiers and comic book art. He said, "You always want to have a sense of motion in a figure that can come from the nuances of how they are standing there with one hip to the side or a shoulder dropped down. Also, I have always had fun when you have the arms moving and the legs posed so you feel like the figure is trying to keep their centre of gravity." All the weapons are 'kid' authentic as befitting neighbourhood backyard battles. Reis decided not to give any of the figures toy guns that replicated the real thing. Reis explained, "My fondest memories was when we had makeshift weapons. I love how kids made weapons from what they found."

To capture this imaginative fun, here sticks serve as machine guns, pinecones are grenades, wiffleball bats are sniper rifles and cardboard tubes become bazookas. This touch adds to the family-friendly tone of the sets and gives each figure a personality. Reis said with a laugh, "The stick machine gun figure makes me think of me as a kid."

Kid's Best Friend

One of the best things about these figures is how everyone is naturally a part of the fun. This includes both genders and a kid's most loyal friend.

The toy soldier maker noted, "When I was a kid, we had girls who would be out there chucking pinecones with the best of us and I had a dog that was often with us, so I included them."

Reis advised, "I did 500 packs of each colour. Once those are gone, I will run other colours."

Since these are not uniformed soldiers, the paint possibilities seem immense, I asked Reis if he had them painted yet? He responded, "No, but I can't wait to see the results from the first person who takes a swing at painting them."

Scenic Elements

Each Backyard Battalion bagged set comes with a retro surprise: a playmat.

Reis said, "I originally only thought of the figures in a bag, then I remembered the mats that used to come with sets. I wanted mine to look like vacant lots, so there are empty cans, toys and old wooden pallets. I tried to make sure the playmat was about 1/32 scale, so it fitted the figures." Each set gets its own scene and they can be combined to form a bigger lot.

"I want to see how many maps I can draw up and make them all line up and expand the size of the backyard," Reis explained.

Another smart bonus is a tent that a buyer can cut out of a bagged set's header card. One set is supplied with a headquarters tent and the other has a medical tent. A fun part of these sets and the mats is adding your own touches. Using scenery pieces that you already have or even some items from your real backyard can help bring the whole thing to life. It also made me ask if the kids from Backyard Battalion could be used for wargaming? "Somebody will come up with that," Reis predicted.





A medic rushes into action with a juice pouch for the wounded.



A sniper watches for a good target.

→ Collector Turned Maker

Reis is a toy soldier collector himself.

"I was pretty casual about it until six or seven years ago, and I was looking for the brands I had as a child. Then I realised there is a whole new world out there and I loved it. Next thing I knew my collection had grown incredibly."

He added, "Recently I was in Hong Kong. I had read in *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures* magazine that King & Country is based there, so I had my factory guy take me to their store and I went crazy in there. I came home with some great stuff. What started out as finding the stuff I had as a kid has now become much bigger."

Positive Feedback

So far reaction from the toy community have been positive, according to Reis.

"I started showing them to people and almost unanimously they thought they were fun," he reported. "People were excited about them. People kept checking on them to make sure they were really coming and that made me confident that they would be liked." So far there seems to be two fan bases for the bagged figures.

"They went on sale and I got a really interesting mix of toy soldier people and designer toy people," Reis observed.

What's Next?

I wondered what's next for Backyard Battalion.

"It's step by step," Reis explained. "I am funding this personally. As long as I get close to selling the initial stock, then I can run more colours and design a second series of figures."

He added, I would love to attend a toy soldier show. If I can pull it off, I will get a stand and sell a bag or two!" Reis, who is married and has two kids of his own, has a clear vision for Backyard Battalion.

He said, "I would like people to be reminded of the simpler, fun and innocent carefree days of being a kid in the summertime running around backyards with your friends. The nostalgia is what started this project for me, and I hope it inspires a nice look back at fellow collectors' own childhoods. I also hope people who look at them get a laugh and have fun playing with them. That is what toys should really be about."

END



Adding a few of your own accessories can make these sets even more fun.



The map and whimsical style of the figures are perfect for a little war.



Each set includes a vinyl neighbourhood playmat and a cut-out tent.

CONTACT

Backyard Battalion

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PLASTIC APPEAL

Plastic toy soldier manufacturers and traders are invited to send figures in for review. Please direct enquiries to the editor at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com or reviewer Kent Welch at kentwelch01@gmail.com

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

American Kent Welch is a long-time Britain's Deetail plastic figures collector. He works in marketing and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Julie and their dog Roxy. He is one of the Collector Guys with multiple platforms devoted to collecting, collectors and their collections. Readers can check them out at Collectorguys.com, TikTok, Instagram and on YouTube under 'Collector Guys'. Enthusiasts can talk to him about toy soldiers at Deetailcollector@gmail.com. This edition marks Kent's debut as this magazine's 'Fantastic Plastics' columnist.

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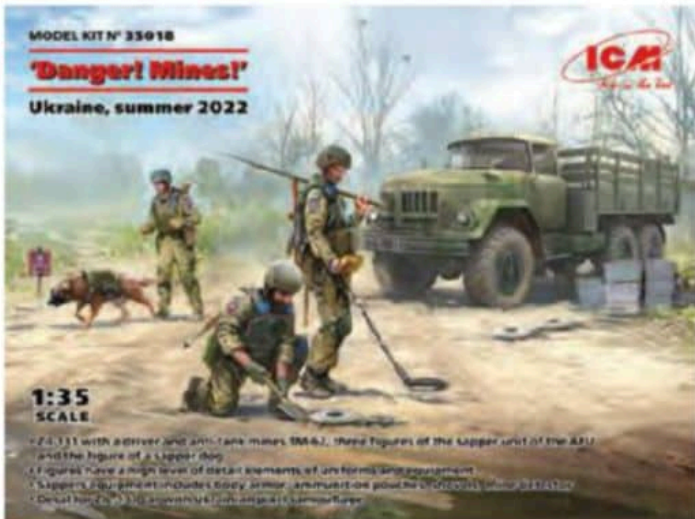


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Model Figures

David Grummitt reviews new unpainted resin and plastic figures and kits.



ICM

Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

We have another release from Ukrainian maker ICM to join the growing range of kits representing the men and women of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who are engaged in their nation's heroic struggle against Russian aggression. The Russo-Ukrainian War, unsurprisingly, continues to loom large in ICM's catalogue. Whatever you may think of modelling subjects for contemporary and ongoing conflicts, there is certainly an interest among modellers, and ICM's steady release of new kits continues to remind us of the heroism and sacrifice of ordinary Ukrainians in resisting the barbaric invasion of their country.

The full-scale fighting that began in February 2022 has gone through several stages. One of the most difficult was the summer of 2022, when the Armed Forces of Ukraine held back enemy strike groups in the south and north-east. The territories where these actions took place were intensively mined, saturated with hundreds of thousands of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. Besides them, unexploded aircraft bombs, mortar shells and ammunition remain in the ground.

Demining, engineering intelligence and installation of mine-explosive barriers are the responsibility of the combat engineer units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Most Ukrainian sappers can perform a wide range of tasks. Their work is needed everywhere, they work in different areas of hostilities and provide engineering support for many units. Sappers perform assigned tasks not only in the second echelon of defence, but also on the line of direct clashes in front of combat positions. Also, dogs assist sappers in detecting explosive objects. ICM's new 'Danger! Mines! Ukraine, Summer 2022' (ref. 35018) kit combines two previously released 1/35-scale kits: the 'Sapper' kit (ref. 35753) and the 'Zil-131' truck (ref. 35515). Both are

excellent kits and putting them together in this combination makes for some good diorama potential.

The maker recently released a kit of a 'WWII British Army Mobile Chapel' (ref. 35586) kit based on ICM's Chevrolet G506. Now we have 'You are Important to God' Prayer Before Battle' (ref. 35616). In World War II, military chaplains were part of the armies of many countries, including the British Armed Forces. The British Army Chaplains Department was established as early as 1796, and starting from February 1919, it was renamed the Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACD). During the war, British military chaplains served in all theatres. In the performance of their duties, 96 British chaplains and 38 of the Commonwealth armed forces lost their lives. This kit contains five figures, including a chaplain, organist and three soldiers participating in a communion service. It's the perfect complement to the 'Mobile Chapel'.

To go with this set we also have a 'WWII British Infantry' (ref. 3054) paint set. It contains pots of acrylic British Khaki, Green Ochre, Extra Dark Green, Gun Metal, Deep Brown and Satin Varnish. Our thanks to ICM for the product information. The kits will be available from good model shops from 25 March.

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MiniArt

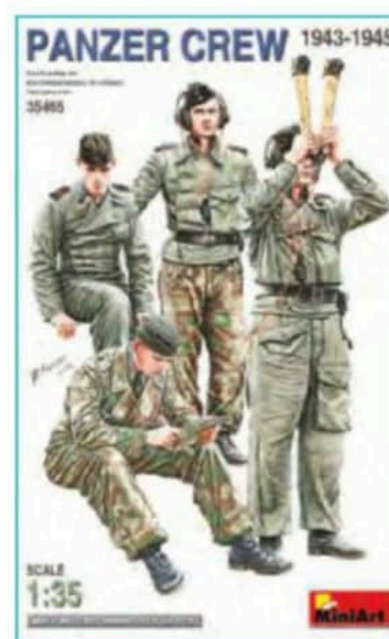
Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

MiniArt's 1/35-scale civilian figures are superb and the ideal complement to many military-themed dioramas and vignettes or simply as a standalone project. For example, 'Refugees Chandler's Family' (ref. 38089) has a man pushing a cart laden with personal possessions, while his wife follows carrying the family's gramophone. These refugee sets are superb and with some careful assembly

and painting lend themselves to an array of suitable diorama projects.

For military modellers, the highlight this issue is a nicely posed set of 'German Panzer Crew 1943-45' (ref.



35465). This includes four figures dressed in typical lightweight herringbone twill Panzer uniforms. There is a commander looking suitably commanding in the cupola, another looking through a

pair of scissor telescopes, an officer reading a map, and a crewman sitting in a relaxed pose on the edge of a tank turret. These will have a variety of uses for the wide array of late-war Panzer kits on the market. Our thanks to MiniArt for the product information. Their kits are available from all good model shops.

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Campaign Miniatures

World War II Sherman Tank

Reviewed by David Grummitt

An exciting new venture from Hudson & Allen Studio, a division of W. Britain Model Figures, the Campaign Miniatures series offers collectors the opportunity to add highly detailed resin 1/30-scale model figures and vehicles to their displays at a fraction of the cost of pre-built and painted items. The first vehicle 'The Sherman M4A3 Medium Tank' (ref. 70001) is the perfect choice to launch this innovative new line.

The M4 Sherman is probably, along with the Soviet T-34, the most iconic tank of the twentieth century. More than 50,000 Shermans were produced in the USA between 1942 and 1945 and they soldiered on in various armies into this century. They fought on all fronts during the war and played an important role in the US, British, Canadian, Soviet and other Allied armies. While outgunned by contemporary German tanks and under-armoured against the mighty Tiger and

Panther tanks, the soundness of the basic design, its mechanical reliability and the skill of its crews, not to mention the sheer numbers that rolled off the production lines, ensured the Sherman played a key part in the eventual victory in Europe.

The M4A3 was powered by a Ford GAA V8 petrol engine. Some 1,690 were produced by the Ford Motor Company between June 1942 and September 1943. The variant saw extensive service in north-west Europe with the American and British armies and on the Eastern Front with the Red Army.

This new kit will appeal to modellers and collectors alike. Its main components are flawlessly cast in grey resin, while the gun barrel is turned metal.

As the instructions say: 'This model is simple to assemble but by no means is it a simple toy. It is a highly detailed historically accurate model kit - with all of the clean-up and prep already done so you get to the fun of painting and detailing right away.'

As someone who has built very many plastic and resin kits through the years, I can say with confidence that the novelty of this last point should not be underestimated. There are some 70 parts included in the kit, but most of these are small hull details, including



The tracks, roadwheel bogies, drive sprocket and idler wheel come pre-assembled as a single piece which attaches to the lower hull.



Sherman Model.

various handles, pioneer tools, hatches and brush guards. The most complex part of any tank, the suspension and tracks, come as two stunningly simple assemblies. These then simply attach to the lower hull. The detail on the turret and upper hull is superb and the crispness of the casting is the equal of the best military model kits.

I am very excited to start work on this kit and look forward to presenting a full building and painting article in the next issue of *TSC&HF*. In the meantime, you'll have to study these photos of the kit parts as they came out of the sturdy packaging to appreciate the quality of this fabulous new release. The kit retails for \$160 US.

CONTACT

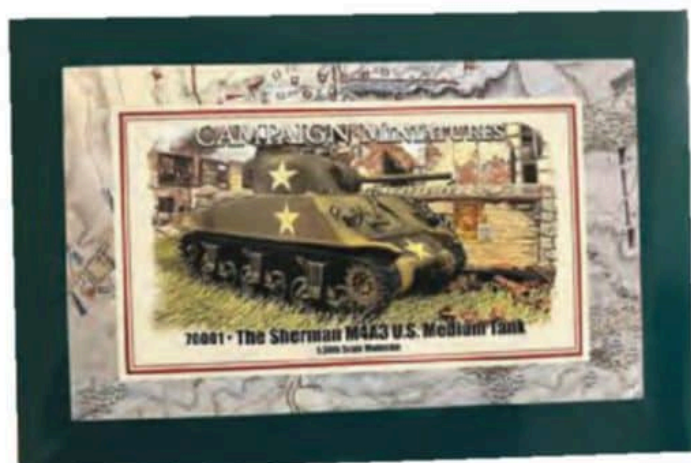
Hudson & Allen Studio

W. Britain Model Figures, 20 E. Water Street,
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601, United States of America

US Tel: +1 (740) 702-1803

Website: www.wbritain.com

Email: wbinfo@wbritain.com



Sherman Box.

Kit Korner: Model Figure Painter's Project

Paul Newman builds a British private of the Napoleonic Wars and paints it with a new set of acrylics.

Text and Photos: Paul Newman

The British soldier of the Napoleonic Wars spotlighted in this edition is a model figure kit that I wanted to purchase for some time that became a Christmas gift from my wife Julie. To finish it, I used a new set of ATOM paints by Spanish paint manufacturer AMMO that premiered at last autumn's Scale Model Challenge (SMC) in the Netherlands.

Paints Perspectives

Before tackling the model, please let me tell you a bit about these paints. I was

not given this ATOM 'Basic Wargames Colors I Set' (A.MIG-20705) for review by the Spanish manufacturer. If you purchase them, you might have a different viewpoint, especially because we all use different methods to paint figures.

I obtained a beta version of the set with twelve different colours in 15ml jars. The final version of the set provides 20ml bottles. For the price of €20, this was a very good bargain! The set includes almost all of the colours needed to finish a figure, except for metallic colours.

They are advertised as being useful for either airbrushing or using a paintbrush because of their thin quality. A demonstrator used them straight out of the bottle for airbrushing at SMC, but I always use paintbrushes. When trying these ATOM paints, I found they were thinner than Vallejo Model Color paints or AMMO's previously line of acrylic paints. As much as I shook the bottles, I never got to the thick part of the paint, if there is one.

ATOM paint is odourless and comes in a small bottle

with a flip-top cap. I must admit that I am not a fan of this cap as it is very similar to the Airfix/Humbrol small bottles provided with basic kits that can splatter upon opening. My fingers became covered in paint. Perhaps in future I will use a rag or tissue to hold the bottle.

As you will see from the rest of this article, these paints do cover well - even the Yellow (A.MIG-20018), a type of colour that usually has an opaque tone. Overall, I found that the ATOM paints produce a smooth, satin finish, very suitable for painting with a



Closeup look at the completed British soldier.

A dozen different paint colours were supplied in the ATOM beta set.



A base is included among the kit's eleven resin parts.



brush. Now onto the model figure kit.

Kit Inspection

Sculpted by David Grieve, this 100mm figure is titled ‘Private, The Light Company, The 28th of Foot (North Gloucestershire) Regiment, Waterloo 1815’. The kit is made up of eleven resin pieces, including a base moulded with muddy field groundwork. I don’t know its price because it was a gift and it no longer appears on the maker’s website.

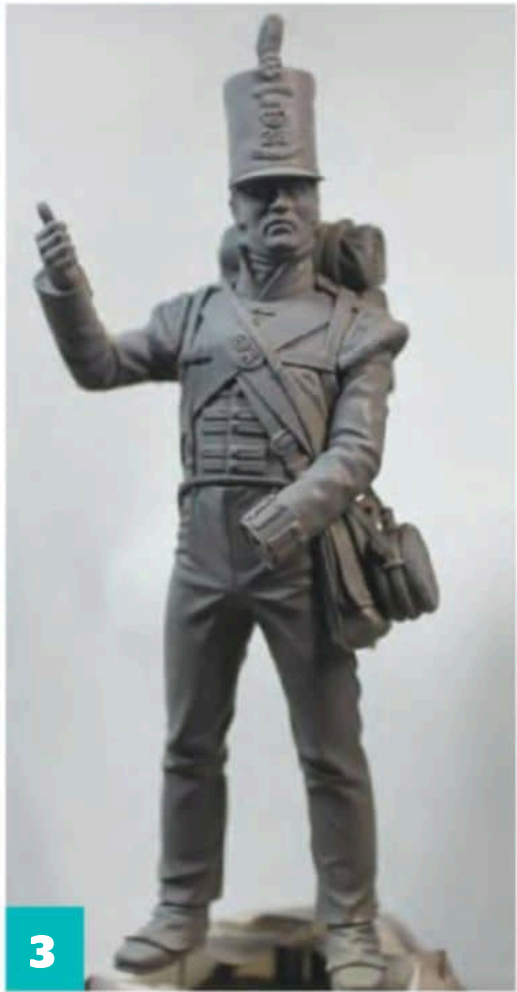
The model came in a stout cardboard box with the parts in plastic bags packed with foam to ensure that no components were lost nor broken in transit. The Hawk Miniatures kit has colour photos of the front and back of the completed figure to aid construction. This kit also came with a full colouring guide, which is not the norm and was very welcome. The kit comes in quite a few parts for a resin model. If you enjoy constructing a figure as much as painting it, then this will be a good model for you. I decided to construct the soldier with everything attached except the left hand holding the musket, the bayonet and the ramrod. Rather than use the resin ramrod supplied, I removed it from the right hand. Then I made a brass ramrod and drilled a hole in the hand to hold it.

The completed figure depicts the infantryman in the act of pushing the ramrod down the barrel, but the ramrod can also be used alongside the barrel as if he is about to load the musket in the midst of action at Waterloo.

Historical Context

The 28th Foot was part of the small regular army sent by Great Britain to defend its territories around the world, including the Duke of Marlborough’s campaigns in Continental Europe, fighting under the command of Major General James Wolfe at Quebec during the French and Indian War, and serving during the American Revolution. The 28th joined the Duke of York’s army in Flanders in 1794, served during the Irish insurrection in 1798, and took part in the recapture of Minorca in the same year.

The line infantry regiment was moved around the Mediterranean region



3 After being assembled, the model was sprayed with primer.



4 Back view of the figure after it was assembled and sprayed with a coat of primer.

under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Abercromby in a campaign highlighted by his expeditionary corps’ great victory in Egypt over the army of Napoleon Bonaparte’s French First Republic led by General

Jacques-François de Menou at the Battle of Alexandria on 21 March 1801.

During the course of the clash, British troops drove off a French onslaught, but a brigade of enemy infantry managed to penetrate a gap between the 28th and the



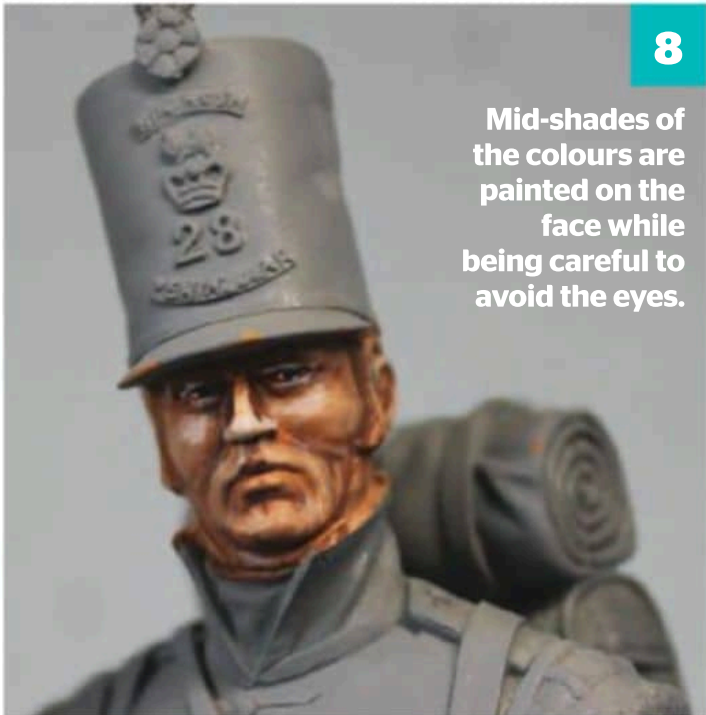
5 Basic Skin, Umber Brown and Orange paints are used to undercoat the face.



6 Painting the soldier’s face starts with doing the eyes in Basic Skin followed by adding highlights.



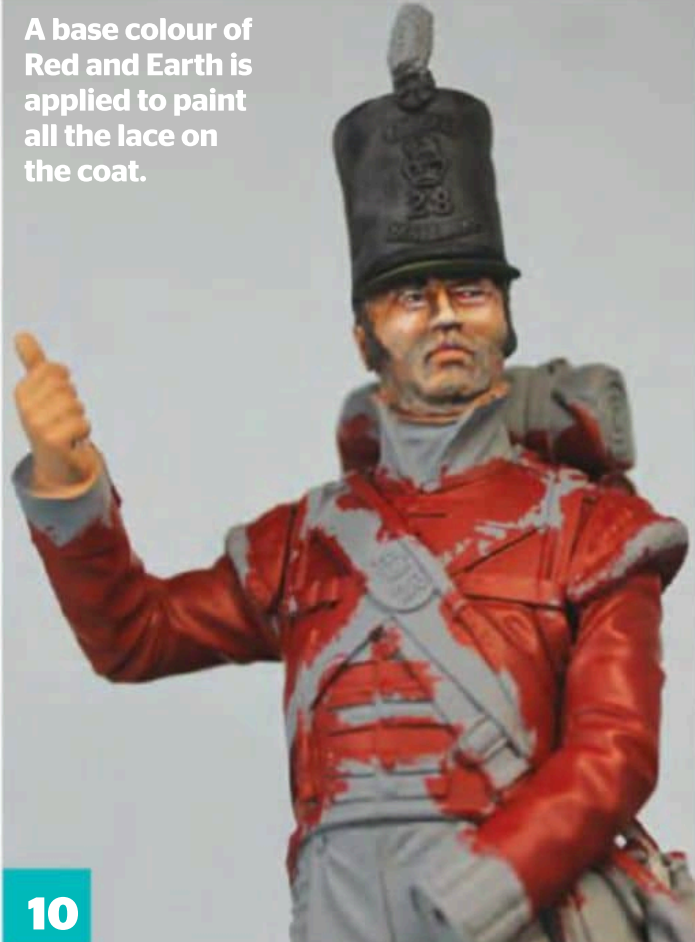
7 Shadows are brushed on the face.



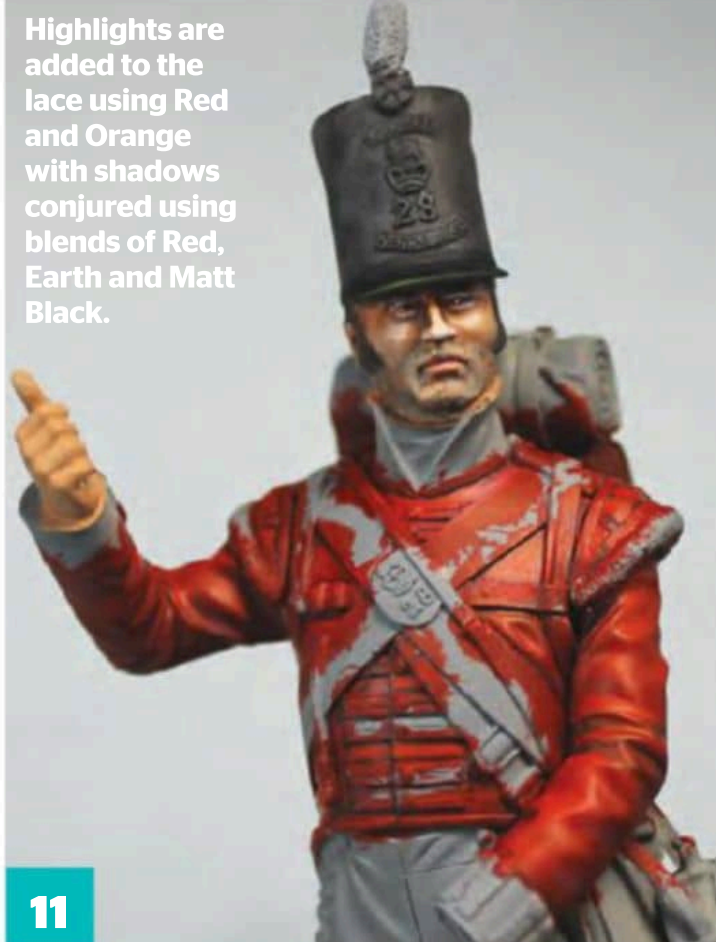
8 Mid-shades of the colours are painted on the face while being careful to avoid the eyes.



9 Hair is added to the face, including stubble on the chin.



10



11



12

→ rest of Abercromby's line. A counterattack by the 42nd Foot drove away the foes, but they in turn went too far and put themselves in danger from French cavalry. At this point, more French cavalry appeared, some of them broke through the 42nd and they formed up to charge the 28th in the rear.

With no reserves available and the two lines of the 28th heavily engaged to their front, Lieutenant Colonel William Chambers made history by ordering, 'Rear rank 28th right about face.' The rear rank dutifully turned about and with extraordinary discipline waited until the French cavalry closed on

them. They then fired one devastating volley causing heavy casualties among the horsemen and forcing them to withdraw.

For their gallantry and fighting back-to-back, the regiment was granted the unique honour of wearing a badge on the back of their caps. This custom continues to this day. The battle honour Egypt with the sphinx together with the laurel leaves of victory are also born on the regimental colour and cap badges front and back as can be seen on my model. As a result of amalgamations through the years, the regiment's lineage is carried on today by The Rifles.

Building the Figure

This figure is quite top-heavy because it's so tall, so the first thing I did was drill holes in both feet and insert pins made from paperclips that were glued with two-part epoxy glue for strength.

This aided with holding the figure and supporting it while adding parts to the model. The parts went together well. Only a seam up the inside of the legs and left side of the face, plus a couple of tricky mould blocks on the back of the knapsack and haversack needed removing with a scalpel.

When adding parts to the figure, the arms and accessories snapped into

position thanks to the maker's very finely sculpted pins and holes, so I only needed to use super glue to hold them together. The parts were held in place with Blu-tack and elastic bands until the glue dried.

One of the straps on the water bottle snapped while I was positioning it, so I remade it with pewter. I used super glue to connect small pieces together.

I went around the figure after the glue had set with some plastic putty to fill gaps and make the joins stronger before spraying them with grey primer.

Painting Process

I always like to have a colour picture in front of me to remind myself of the bits and pieces when painting a figure, so this model kit's photos and colouring details were much appreciated.

I undercoated the face in Basic Skin (A.MIG-20041) mixed with Umber Brown (A.MIG-20055) and Orange (A.MIG-20027). I did two or three passes of the acrylic paints straight out of their pots to create a strong colour. After that stage, all the painting I did was with the paints straight out of their bottles because, as I mentioned earlier, they are



13

A combination of tones are applied to create the yellow facings.



14

A minute paintbrush is used to dot the two black lines flanking the yellow strips recreating lacing.

15


The knapsack is painted in a realistic style.

thinner than Vallejo acrylics, so I did not need to thin them down more.

I used my usual method for painting faces starting by doing the eyes in Basic Skin, then applying highlights and shadows to the face without too much blending of the base colours. Then I painted further thin layers over the top with a lot of blending while being careful to avoid the eyes.

I painted hair on the face using my dark flesh mix along with Blue (A.MIG-20110). I painted hair on the head using a mix of the Umber Brown, Matt Black (A.MIG-20163) and my dark flesh mix.

After I was happy with the face, I went on to painting the rest of the face with acrylics using my usual 'wet palette' method for adding more layers or correcting colours as I saw fit.

To paint the myriad of white lace on the jacket, I first applied a base colour of Red (A.MIG-20029) and Earth (A.MIG-20051) to the coat and then highlights with Red and Orange along with shadows with various mixes of Red, Earth and Matt Black.

After that dried, I did the white straps and lacing

16


The water bottle is painted with the Blue and the haversack is done in a mix of colours and tones.

starting by applying an off-white base colour to all of the white areas (Matt White and Earth). Then I added a small amount of Matt Black to the base mixture and applied it to the laces in shade and lower parts of the body. More white paint was added to the lace further up the man's body that would be more in the light.

Once I was satisfied with the darker shades, I added Matt White to the base colour and applied it sparingly to upper parts of the straps and laces gradually adding more white paint until very few places had pure white. I stippled the pure white so the texture of the straps could be seen. In this way, most of the white is not a pure white, but an off-white that looks more realistic in this scale. After I was happy with the white, I cut back on it with the jacket's dominant colour (Red and Earth) to define the edges of the straps.

A similar method was applied to the Yellow facing colour on the neck, but using an Earth, Bright Green (A.MIG-20084) and Yellow mix over an Earth base and Earth and Bright Green mix for shading.

The lacing is meant

17

The musket is attached after being painted in various colours and tones.



to represent two black lines with a yellow line in between. I found this to be a big challenge even in this scale! After a few attempts, I decided on using my thinnest paintbrush to dot the black lacing after putting a yellow strip as near to the centre of the lace as I could.

The knapsack would have been made of hide, so it was given a base coat of Red and Umber Brown before being dry-brushed with variations of Matt White, Earth and Umber Brown to give it distinctive patches. The water bottle was painted in the Blue with a small amount of a Matt Black/Matt White mix and the lettering painted white. I used a Matt Black/Matt White mix to outline the letters too. The haversack was painted in a mix of Matt White, Earth

and Basic Skin followed by highlights and shadows using the same colours. When it was dry, I thinned down the dark shade mix with some

The buttons are painted using tones of silver and grey.

18




19

The trousers are painted with a mix of Matt Black, Matt White and Blue.

→ Umber Black and applied a wash of that mix to tone down the colour. The musket was painted a mid-brown using the Umber Brown along with a dark brown/black wash for the woodgrain and a tan mix (Umber Brown and Earth) for the highlights. I emphasised the darkness where wood meets metal using a blend of Matt Black and Umber Brown mix. The metal parts were painted with Vallejo Brass (70.801) and mixes of Silver (70.997) and Black (70.950). After an undercoat of gloss black, the buttons were painted using the Darkstar Hobbies Molten Metals Silver and Vallejo Gunmetal Grey (70.863).

The shako was painted in the ATOM Umber Black with a touch of Matt White and Earth before its peak was painted in the black again to emphasise the different materials involved. I also painted under the peak with a Bright Green/Umber Black mix. The headgear's metal parts were painted like the musket and buttons were.



20

After the finished soldier is placed on the wooden base, groundwork is added.

The trousers were painted in an Umber Black, Matt White and Blue mix, with the highlights and shadows in appropriate mixes of the base coat.

Finishing Touches

A suitably sized wooden base was chosen for the figure and musket to fit. Two holes were drilled and plugged with cocktail sticks before groundwork was applied from a plaster/sand mix. While it was still wet, I added various imitation grasses and flowers by gluing them into the plaster with PVA glue.

Next the figure was attached to the base with two-part epoxy resin glue to help secure the musket in place. The groundwork was completed with a couple of washes of dark browns to simulate muddy terrain. As usual, the base was completed with a name plate by Name It!

This is a lovely model and really did paint up quite nicely! I enjoyed using the new ATOM paints. They suited my style of painting well. In future, I might use a matting agent (like Tamiya X-21) as some of the colours dry satin, however, I will be using them again. 



20

The base is completed with a name plate by Name It! as usual.

CONTACT

Hawk Miniatures
Website: www.hawkminiatures.co.uk
Tel: +44(0)779 5231870

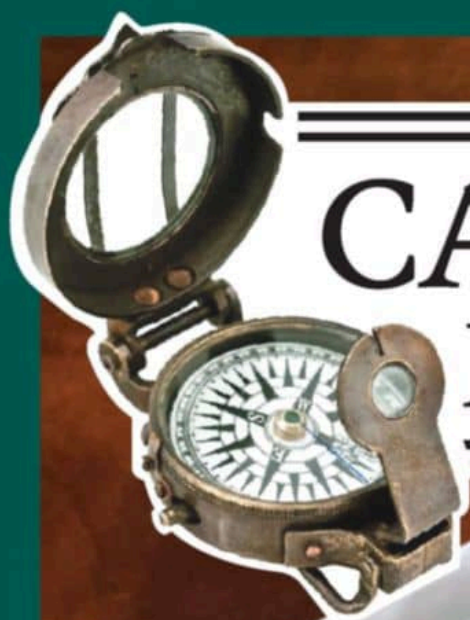
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ABOUT THE WRITER

Paul Newman is a keen modeller whose main interest is the Napoleonic Wars, particularly British cavalry. He is a long-time member of the British Model Soldier Society and serves as its treasurer, while his wife, Julie, is its secretary. Together they help spearhead organising the BMSS Annual Show. Paul's memberships have also included Planetfigure and The Basement. In addition, the Newmans operate Name It! providing engraved nameplates to model figure enthusiasts. They can be found manning their stand at many major European shows.

“Overall, I found that the ATOM paints produce a smooth, satin finish very suitable for painting with a brush.”



CAMPAIGN MINIATURES



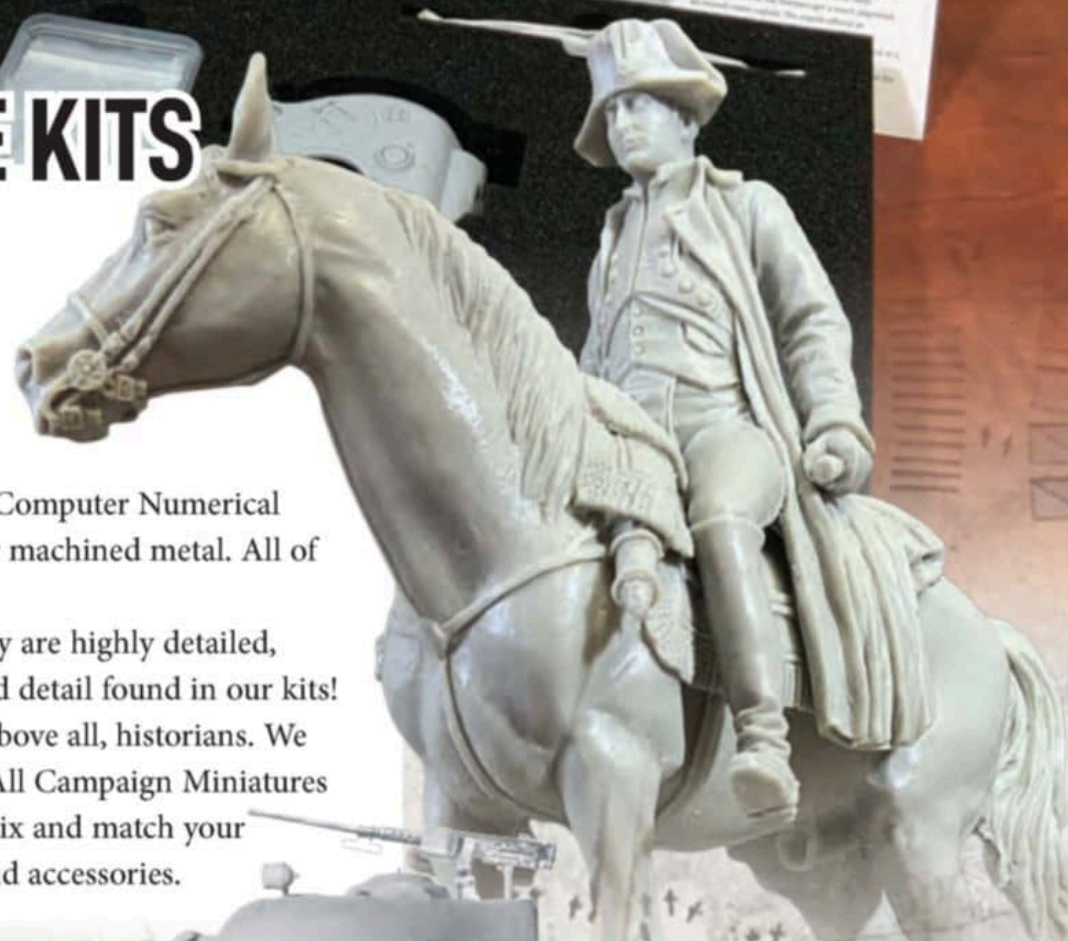
1:30 SCALE MODEL AND FIGURE KITS

Campaign Miniatures is a whole new way to look at model and figure kits. Our advanced methods of production and high quality material means virtually no clean up so you can get right down to the fun of building and joy of painting.

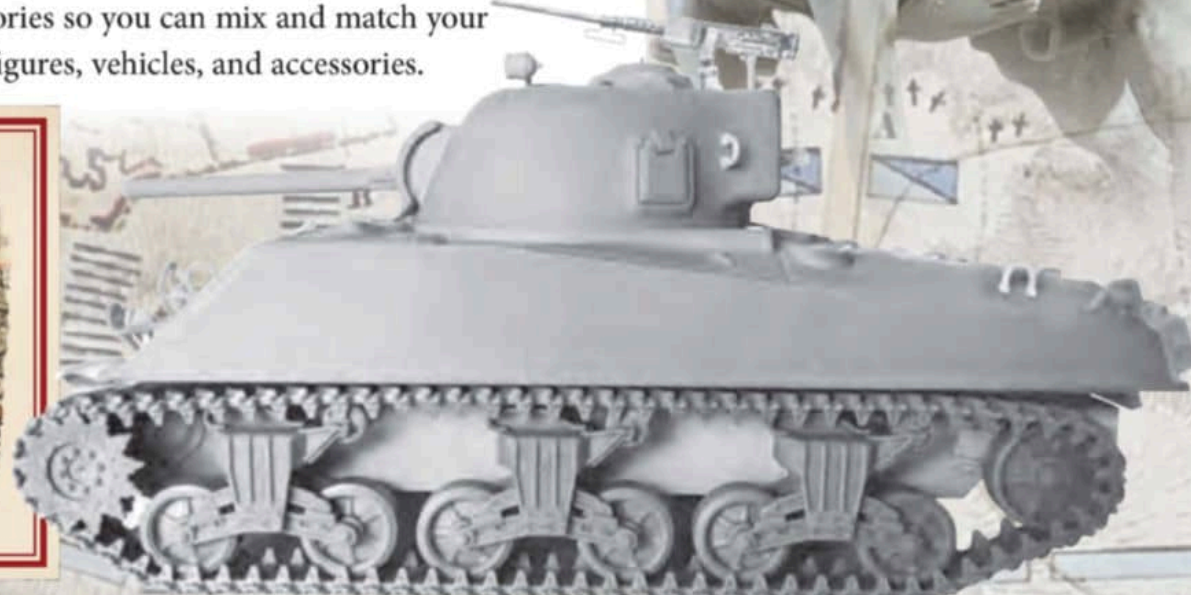
Our models come out of the box pre-cleaned and prepped. Their polyurethane resin construction means sharp, crisp detail with no flash and little pitting. The metal parts are clean and sturdy. The gun tubes on our tanks are CNC turned (Computer Numerical Control) giving them a precision and superior manufacture only found in computer machined metal. All of this adds up to an exceptional modeling experience.

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70001 • The Sherman M4A3 U.S. Medium Tank
1:30th Scale Model Kit



70020

**U.S. Army Tanker in
Overalls, 1942-45**
1:30 Scale, Unpainted Resin Kit

Use photo as a suggested color guide for figure. Contents are NCF painted.



70019

**Luftwaffe Fighter Pilot,
1939-45**
1:30 Scale, Unpainted Resin Kit

Use photo as a suggested color guide for figure. Contents are NCF painted.



70018

**RAF Fighter Pilot,
1940-45**
1:30 Scale, Unpainted Resin Kit

Use photo as a suggested color guide for figure. Contents are NCF painted.



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A Look at Books

Our reviewers check out some new books that might pique the interest of hobbyists and history buffs.

The History of Science Fiction And Its Toy Figurines

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Luigi Toiati

Published by: Pen & Sword Military

ISBN: 978-1-399000-554-8

Price: £40/\$59.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Author Luigi Toiati sets his metaphorical ray gun on stun as he embarks on a stunning exploration in *The History of Science Fiction and Its Toy Figurines*, a 528-page hardcover book richly illustrated by as many as 470 mostly colour illustrations and photographs. The Italian is a lifelong collector with 45 years of hands-on experience as a professional painter. Luigi began his career in London working for his friend Edward Suren, who orchestrated the Willie range of 30mm model figures. The gifted artist founded his own Garabaldi & Co. Toy Soldiers brand in 1987. The wide-ranging subjects covered by Luigi's traditional-style 54mm creations and their inimitable style rank among the favourite figures in my own collection.

A high percentage of this new book is devoted to an exhaustive academic analysis of the genre's origins in myths, folklore and religion as it evolved throughout history. The author duly notes how the fantasy flames were fanned by popular stories and novels penned by inventive writers such as Jules Verne, HP Lovecraft, Edgar Rice Burroughs and HG Wells.

Luigi goes on to credit Hugo Gernsback, an inventor, writer, editor and publisher born in Luxembourg, with coining the term 'science fiction' in conjunction with the debut of his American pulp fiction magazine *Amazing Stories* in 1926. It was a landmark launching pad for all the sci-fi short stories, comic books, novels, television programmes and movies that have ensued ever since.

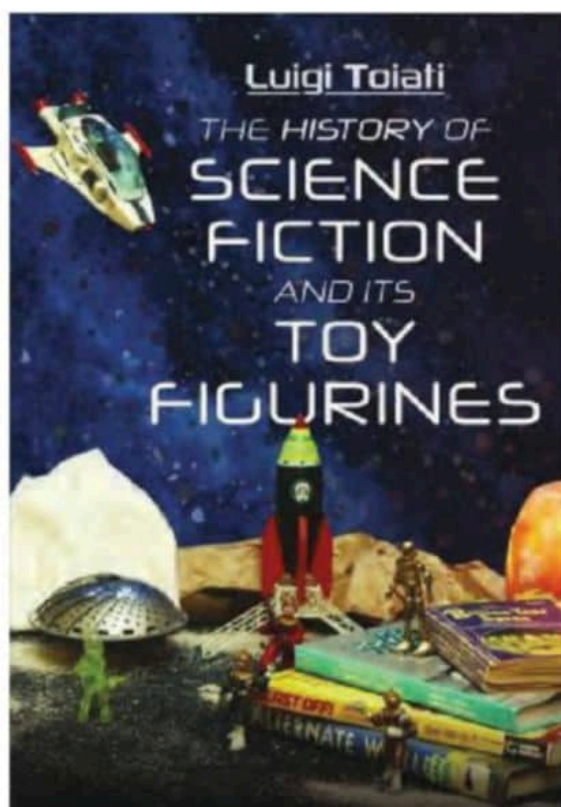
After Luigi sets the stage with his deep dive into digging up this intriguing genre's roots, the fun really begins for us collectors when he embarks on exploring the production of sci-fi toys through the years, starting with miniature recreations of fictional heroes such as a Buck Rogers, Dan Dare and Flash Gordon. Metal and plastic toy soldier-style figures and playsets are heavily represented in this overview. The

dedicated researcher also casts a wider net as he enthusiastically delves into all kinds of sci-fi toys that have been produced and marketed in widely varied sizes, styles and formats to capitalise on the great popularity of everything from superheroes to space operas.

Luigi notes that around 330 brands are covered in this book. Airfix, Britains, Cherilea, Timpo, London Gothic Collectables, Moldex, Crescent, Durso, CBG Mignot, Marx and Tim Mee are a mere sampling of the brand names past and present that might be familiar to avid collectors.

This eye-opening book deserves a spot on the bookshelves of anyone who not only enjoys collecting, but also has a great interest in all facets of the history of our hobby. Our thanks to the publisher's (www.pen-and-

sword.co.uk) US distributor Casemate Publishers for providing a review copy.



Write a Book Review!

Do you have a non-fiction book of interest that you'd like to review in *TSC&HF*? Then please get in touch with the editor, Stuart A. Hessney, about requirements via e-mail at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com.

Port Arthur 1904-05

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Robert Forczyk

Illustrator: Steve Noon

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Campaign 398

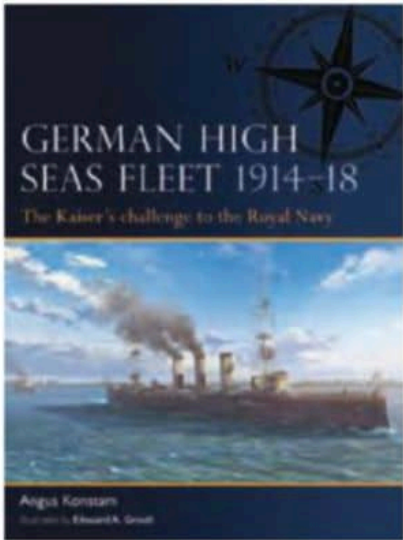
ISBN: 978-1-47285-647-0

Price: £15.29/\$25 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Author Robert Forczyk delivers a transfixing narrative in *Port Arthur 1904-05: The First Modern Siege* set against the backdrop of the Russo-Japanese War. Imperial Russia's deep-water port and naval base at the southern tip of Manchuria's Liadong Peninsula was regarded as one of the most strongly fortified positions in the world before it became besieged.

The site was known as *Lüshunkou* in Chinese when the faltering Qing Dynasty took advantage of its superb natural harbour to establish a base for its *Beiyang* (Northern Seas) Fleet in 1881. Within a decade, it mushroomed from a small fishing village of 4,000 souls to a major port to shield northern China from encroachment by Imperial Japan and Russia. Japan seized the peninsula and Port Arthur during the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, but expansion-minded Russia objected to this state of affairs. It enlisted assistance



from France and the British Empire to pressure Japan into relinquishing control of the peninsula in return for a large Chinese indemnity. Japan was humiliated, but it used the money to build a bigger fleet, expand its army and bide its time. Two years later, Russia coerced a lease of the peninsula from China and began heavily fortifying Port Arthur and its harbour as a base for its Pacific Squadron. The year-round port was advantageous because Russia's alternative at Vladivostok was iced-in 100 to 110 days yearly.

Ultimately, Japan decided it needed to act quickly before its rival became too formidable, so it triggered the Russo-Japanese War by launching a pre-emptive torpedo attack on the enemy fleet at anchor the night of 9 February 1904. A daytime clash followed between the opposing surface fleets. After advancing down the peninsula, Japanese ground forces began the siege of Port Arthur on 1 August.

The casualties on both sides were horrific. Japan wasted lives on heedless infantry attacks. The stoic Russians fought back at a heavy cost while sustaining major naval losses. Overall, the leadership's incompetence was notable on both sides as there was endless attrition with limited gains, artillery duels and trench warfare that were harbingers of World War I. Port Arthur fell on 2 January 1905. The Japanese won the battle but at a tremendous cost. The Russians might have held out longer, if not for their top leadership's cowardice and incompetence.

This is an interesting part of history that I was not familiar with before. Artwork by Steve Noon, maps, diagrams and more than 60 period photographs illuminate this 96-page book. I recommend it.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

Such a Clash of Arms

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Kevin R. Pawlak

Published by: Casemate Publishers

ISBN 978-1-63624-266-8

Price: £24.95/\$24.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

As momentum shifted during the summer of 1862, it seemed like the American Civil War might result in the United States being permanently split in two. Demoralised Federal troops took refuge behind the defences of Washington, D.C., as Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia advanced to the capital's doorstep.

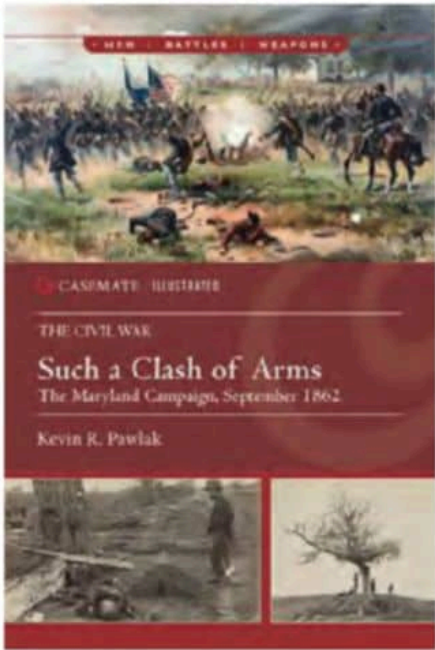
Instead of attacking the city, Lee fatefully turned north into Maryland in hope of scoring a decisive battlefield victory to sway public opinion on the home front and influence foreign powers. The newly reorganised Army of the Potomac,

commanded by Major General George B. McClellan, gave chase.

The foes fought four key battles during a span of eighteen days, including the climatic clash along Antietam Creek outside Sharpsburg on 17 September. The Battle of Antietam still ranks as the bloodiest single day in US military history. Lee withdrew into Virginia. The strategic victory gave US President Abraham Lincoln an opportunity to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and change the nature of the war.

Author Kevin R. Pawlak's interesting and detailed account *Such a Clash of Arms: The Maryland Campaign, September 1862* is complemented by a plethora of photos, illustrations and maps.

Our thanks to the publisher (www.casematepublishers.com) for a review copy.



The Lost Samurai

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Stephen Turnbull

Published by: Frontline Books

ISBN 978-1-526675-898-9

Price: £19.99/\$34.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

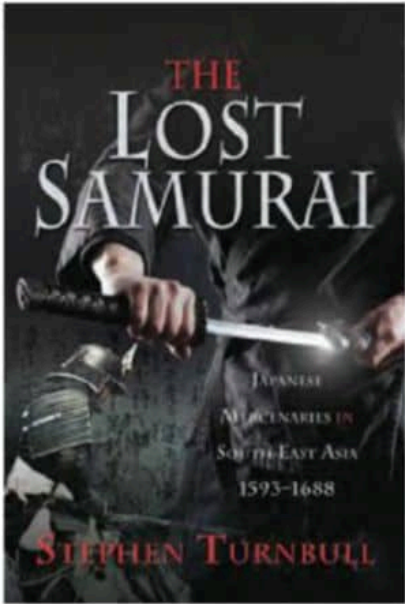
Author Stephen Turnbull’s book *The Lost Samurai: Japanese Mercenaries in the South East Asia 1593-1688* was a revelation for this reader. I had no idea that members of Japan’s legendary warrior class were employed in the service of Burma, Cambodia, Siam, Spain, Portugal and the Dutch East India Company for nearly 100 years.

Samurai formed fierce assault parties, worked as royal bodyguards and served as executioners. The author reasons that this created a stereotypical image that had a profound influence on how they were regarded by their employers. For example, south-east Asian kings tended to employ the Japanese fighting men as trusted palace guards on a long-term

basis. In contrast, Europeans usually hired samurai for specific campaigns on a temporary basis. Interestingly, it seems that Europeans respected them, but feared the warriors might turn against them eventually.

A historical ‘what if’ is the most interesting element of this hardcover book to me. It is suggested that if Japan had chosen engagement with south-east Asia instead of isolation from it in the 1630s, perhaps the presence of established Japanese communities overseas might have had a profound influence on the evolution of international relations in the region. Imagine if Japan had cultivated an overseas empire early on to rival Great Britain later. Instead, Japan closed its doors and left the mercenaries stranded in distant lands, making them truly lost samurai.

Our thanks to the publisher’s (www.frontline-books.com) US distributor Casemate Publishers for a review copy.



British Pacific Fleet 1944-45

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Brian Lane Herder

Illustrator: Paul Wright

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Fleet 3

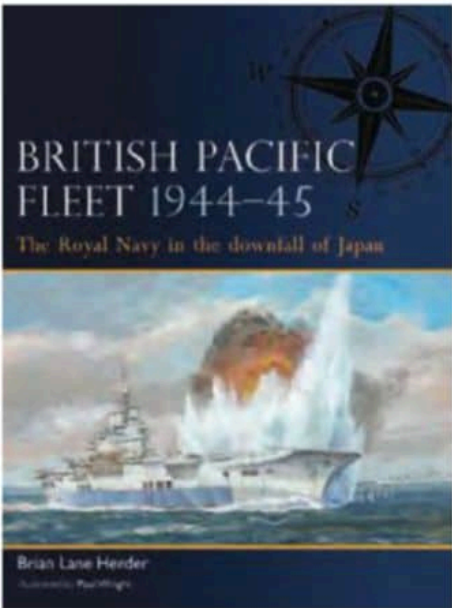
ISBN: 978-1-47285-677-7

Price: £15.99/\$23 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

A bounty of photographs, diagrams and artwork by Paul Wright enhance author Brian Lane Herder’s new book *British Pacific Fleet 1944-45: The Royal Navy in the Downfall of Japan*. It was Britain’s primary contribution to the defeat of Japan in 1945 and it was a counterpart to the US Navy’s Fast Carrier Task Force.

As naval activities relatively wound down in the European Theatre and the Indian Ocean, Royal Navy assembled a significant fleet in 1944 for the Pacific Theatre. Known as Task Force 57, it generally operated under US direction. It included aircraft carriers, battleships, destroyers, submarines, replenishment groups, light vessels and shore



facilities. It was nowhere near the size of the US Pacific Fleet, but it made a significant contribution to the war effort. Based on planning in motion, had the war with Japan continued into 1946, it would have become an even larger fleet capable of independent action.

Royal Navy crews had to learn the US Navy’s carrier tactics and replenishment at sea procedures. They were more aggressive and strategic than they were in the North Sea and the Mediterranean and reflected the vast distances involved. Naval aircraft coordination evolved as the British servicemen adopted some of their ally’s tactics. Even the roundels on aircrafts’ wings and tails were modified, something I was not aware of. British carriers had armoured decks, which was a significant advantage given that they joined their American counterparts in operations that encountered Japanese kamikaze attacks toward the end of the war.

The Royal Navy participated in Japanese surrender ceremonies, the liberation of former colonies, and other activities that brought full circle the struggles of the British Empire in World War II.

This paperback book does an excellent job of describing the British vessels, operations, tactics and battle experiences. The force was involved in the Okinawa invasion, shore attacks on the Japanese home islands and raids on enemy island bases in the south-west Pacific. The experience allowed for truly joint operations and a close relationship that continues to the present day.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

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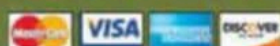
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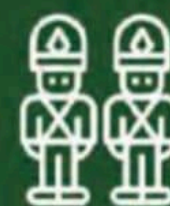
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Calendar of Events

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

April

Saturday, 13 April, Sword & Lance model making and militaria exhibition sponsored by the Darlington Military Modelling Society. Northern Echo Arena, Darlington Mowden Park RFC DL2 1DL. 09:30 to 16:00. Admission £6; children under age sixteen free. Features trader and club stands, bring and buy, and an open competition. Website: www.swordandlance.co.uk.

Sunday 21 April, Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission \$7. Children under age twelve free with an adult. Presented by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group. Contact: Steve Connell, US tel: +1 (734) 455-0724 or email: sconnell51@comcast.net; Rod Chapman, US tel: +1 (740) 924-2531; or Rick Keller, US tel: +1 (765) 430-6289; Website: www.mwtoysoldier.com

Thursday to Sunday, April 18 to 21, Little Wars convention presented by the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society's Midwest Chapter, Westin Chicago Lombard, 70 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, Illinois, USA. The event will feature four days of historical, fantasy and science fiction gaming, parent/child games, a painting contest, and traders. Website: www.hmgsmidwest.com.

Saturday, 27 April, British Model Soldier Society Annual Show, Salvation Army Reading Central, Anstey Road, Reading RG1 7SN. The doors open at 10:30. Admission £5 for the public; £4 for BMSS members. Features trade stands, competitions, displays, demonstrations, and paint and take for children. The open competitions entry fees are £2 for non-members and £1 for members. Competition entries close at 13:00. Contact: UK tel: +44 (0)1895 832757; Website: www.bmssonline.com.

May

Friday and Saturday, 3-4 May, Miniature Figure Collectors of America 81st Annual Show & Mart, Radisson Hotel Philadelphia East, 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, Pennsylvania, USA. The event features an exhibition and vendors. Website: www.mfcaclub.com.

Saturday, 18 May, Plastic Warrior Show. Harlequin Suite, Winning Post Inn, Chertsey Road, Whitton, Twickenham, London TW2 6LS. Opens at 10:30. Contact: UK tel: +44 (0)1483 830743 email: pw.editor3@gmail.com or pw.editor@ntlworld.com; online: plasticwarrioreditor.blogspot.co.uk.

Sunday, 19 May, Ohio Toy Soldier Show, Galaxy Restaurant and Banquet Center, 201 Park Center Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission \$5. Children under age twelve free with an adult. Presented by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group. Contacts same as above

June

Saturday, 1 June, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$5; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 257-2687 or (201) 342-6475 and on Facebook.

Saturday, 8 June, White Rose Figure World North, Galtres Centre Market Place, Easingwold YO61 3AE, United Kingdom. 10:00-17:00. Admission £5; children under age sixteen free. Info: White Rose Military Modelling Society page on Facebook.

Saturday, 15 June, Ontario Model Soldier Society On Parade, New Venue: Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke), Canada. Hours: 09:00-15:00. Admission \$10; children under age 12 free. Contact: Chairman Jim Qualtrough, tel: +1 (416) 543-0873; email: omss.bell.net or Website: www.omss.ca.

July

Wednesday to Sunday, 17-21, Historicon, Lancaster County Convention Centre, 25 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA. Theme: 'From Hollywood to Historicon'. The Historical Miniature Gaming Society-sponsored event features tournaments, seminars, figure painting classes, contests and vendor sales. Website: www.hmgs.org.x

Sunday, 28 July, New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Sale, Wayne Police Athletic League (PAL), 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$6; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, or Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, (781) 321-8855.

August

Friday to Sunday, 2-4 August, Eighth Annual W. Britain Model Figures Symposium at the World War II American Experience Museum and Education Center, 845 Crooked Street Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania USA. Activities planned include a workshop on making either an American Civil War or World War II diorama on Friday, a slate of guest speakers and a dinner event on Saturday, and closeup looks at the museum's collection including a ride in a restored US M1A3 Abrams tank on Sunday. Rooms are available at a special event rate of \$149 US per night at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel. Contact: US tel: +1 (740) 702-1803, email wbinfo@wbritain.com or website: www.wbritain.com.

Sunday, 25 August, Battleground at Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale, Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission: \$6; children under age twelve free. Promoted by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group, the event is aimed at commemorating the 160th anniversary of the American Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg and giving enthusiasts a chance to enjoy the toy soldier hobby. Contact: Steve Connell, US tel: +1 (734) 455-0724. Website: www.mwtoysoldier.com.

September

Saturday, 7 September, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. Details and contacts same as above.

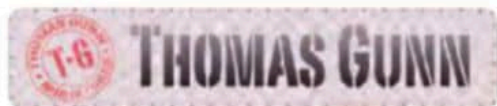
Sunday, 22 September, Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, Schaumburg Marriott, 50 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, Illinois, USA. 10:00 to 15:00. Preshow hotel room trading. Special room rate \$129. Contact: Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or email matt@hobbybunker.com.

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Prize Exercise

Win RAF-Themed Female Trio from TGM

WIN

By Stuart A. Hessney

This time *TSC&HF* readers have an exclusive chance to win 1/30-scale figures from Thomas Gunn Miniatures (TGM) to form a Royal Air Force-themed trio inspired by real women who served during World War II.

They include a personality figure of 'Joy Lofthouse' (ref. RAFO06A), who joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in December 1943 together with her sister Yvonne after seeing a magazine advert seeking women to learn how to fly. Members of the British civilian organisation ferried new, damaged and repaired aircraft to free RAF aviators for combat duty. Joy had never even driven a car before, but she learned to pilot eighteen different types of aircraft ranging from biplanes to Spitfire fighters and bombers to ferry them. Joy was one of the last two surviving 'Spitfire Girls' at the time of her death at age 94 in 2017.

The other two new releases represent the Special Operations Executive (SOE) created under the Ministry of Economic Warfare to perform secret missions in occupied Europe and Southeast Asia. 'Yolande Beekman' (ref. RAFO07A) and 'Yvonne Cormeau' (ref. RAFO07B) are modelled in blue uniforms signifying how they served in both the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and the SOE. They stand holding cups of tea as if they are chatting before a training exercise. They were valuable due to their linguistic skills and served as wireless operators with underground cells in German occupied France. Beekman was caught and executed in 1944, but Cormeau survived the war's perils.

This generous prize package has an aggregate retail value of £150/\$165, but one very lucky reader can win it simply by sending in the correct answer to the following question:



Our readers have a chance to win a trio of World War II RAF-themed women courtesy of TGM.

Yvonne Cormeau's wartime experiences were the inspiration for Sebastian Faulk's novel *Charlotte Gray* (1998). Who starred as the title character in the 2001 movie adaptation?

A. Jennifer Aniston

B. Nicole Kidman

C. Cate Blanchett

D. Kate Winslet

HOW TO WIN!

All entries must be submitted with your complete contact details, including a daytime telephone number. Entries should be emailed to *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. All entries must be received by 1 June 2024. Good luck!

CONTACT

Thomas Gunn Miniatures
Unit 4, Swan Business Park, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 8GH
Tel: +44 (0)203 314 0090
Website: www.tomgunn.co.uk
E-mail: Welcome@gunnclub.co.uk

Previous Winner Announced

Congratulations to the very lucky winner of the issue 114 prize competition featuring the colourful matt-painted set titled 'Santa & His Snowman' (ref. XM023-01) courtesy of King & Country Ltd. Company cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson has imagined that Santa Claus is taking a break from overseeing his elves make Christmas toys for good boys and girls at his North Pole workshop to step outside and build a snowman. The white frozen fellow wears a top hat dusted with snow and a tartan scarf. He has a carrot for a nose and bits of coal form his eyes, mouth and buttons.

This latest 1/30-scale entry in K&C's long history of imaginative seasonal releases retails for \$85 US, but American reader Charles Peplow won an example by correctly answering that the song 'White Christmas' was composed by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby's performance in the holiday musical movie *Holiday Inn* (1942) popularised the song and it won the 1943 Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Congratulations to the very fortunate winner and thanks to all the other readers from around the world who submitted entries. Please keep on trying because you've got to be in it to win it!



K&C's festive 'Santa & His Snowman' set (ref. XM023-01).

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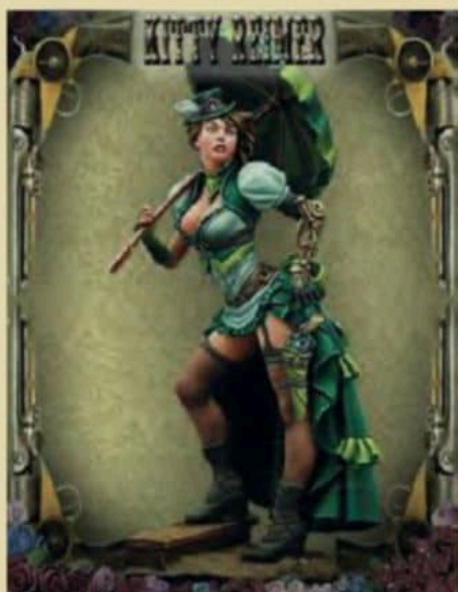
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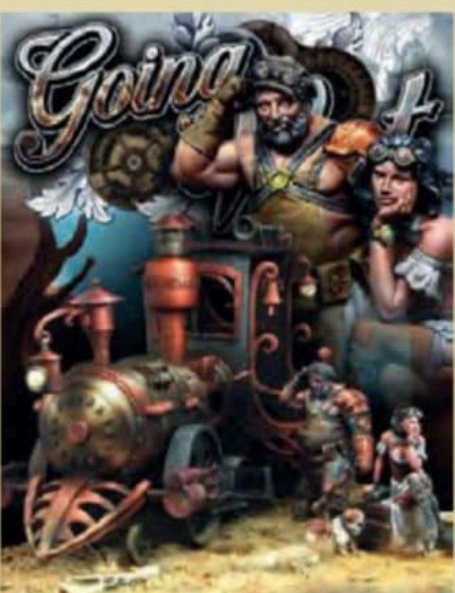
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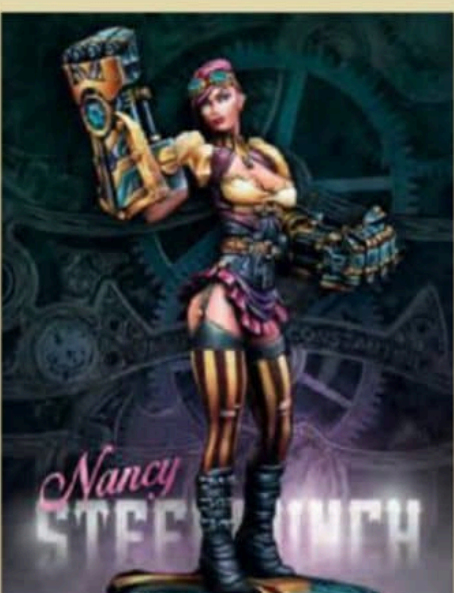
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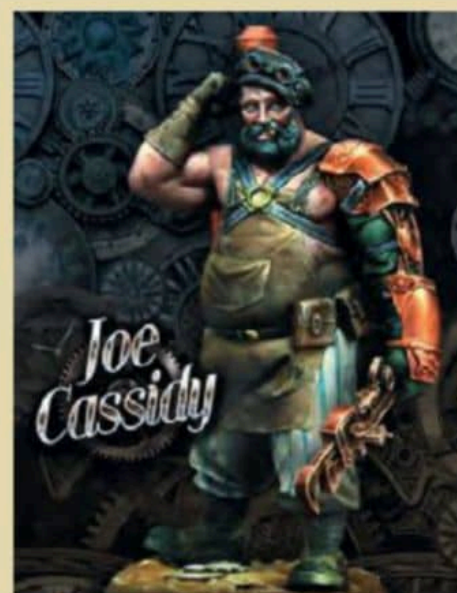
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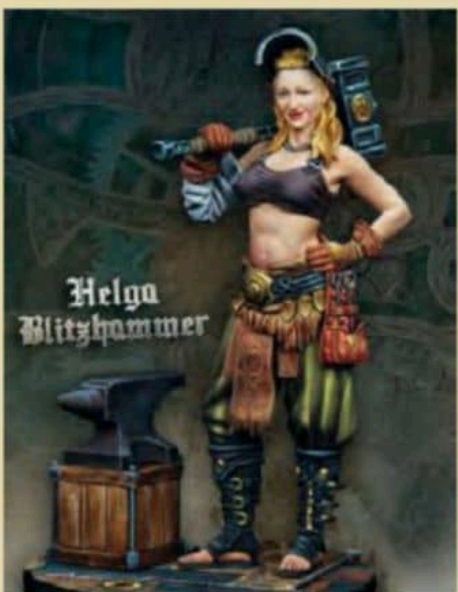
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SSP010



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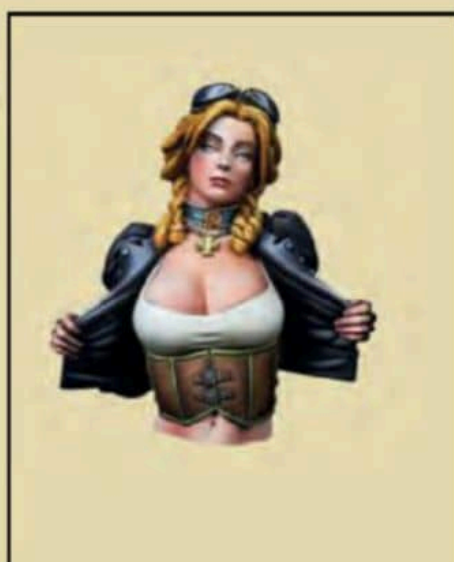
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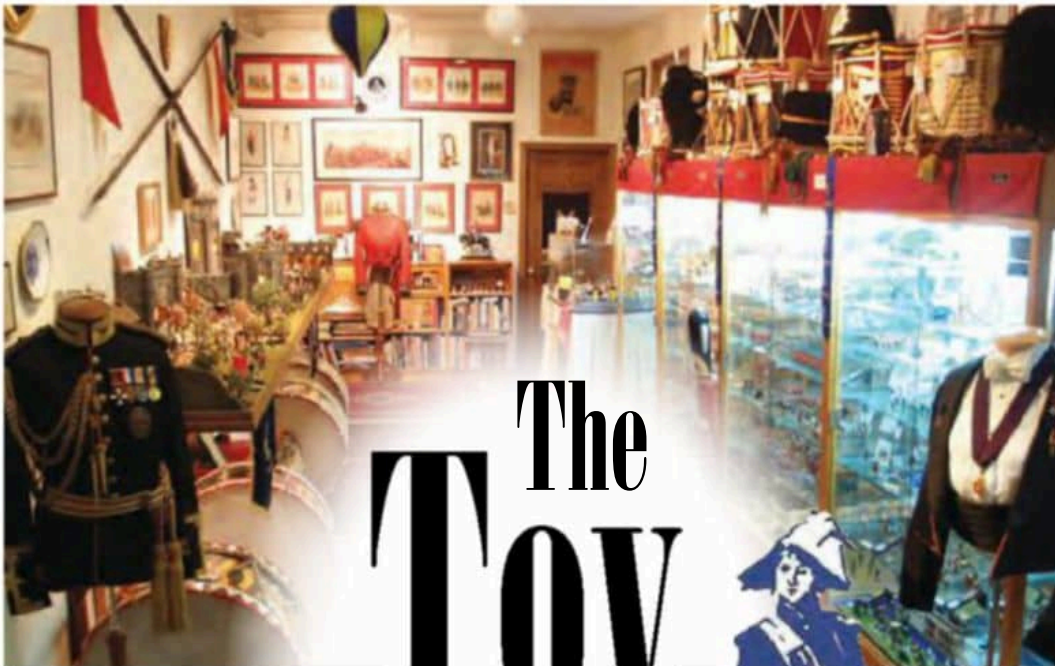
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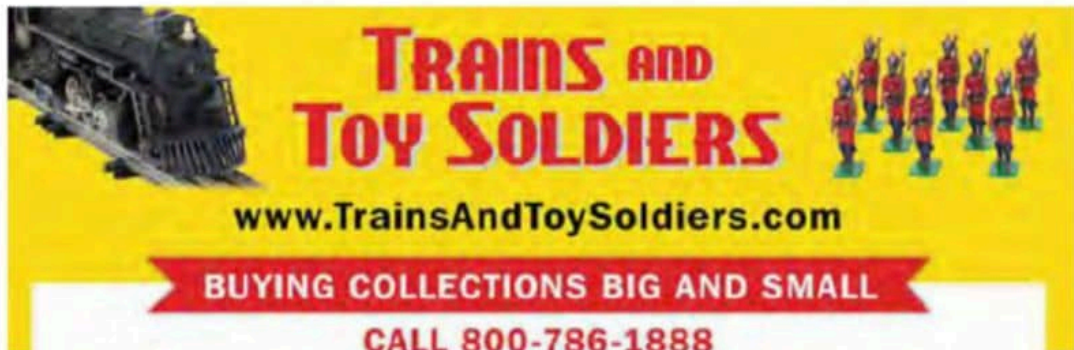
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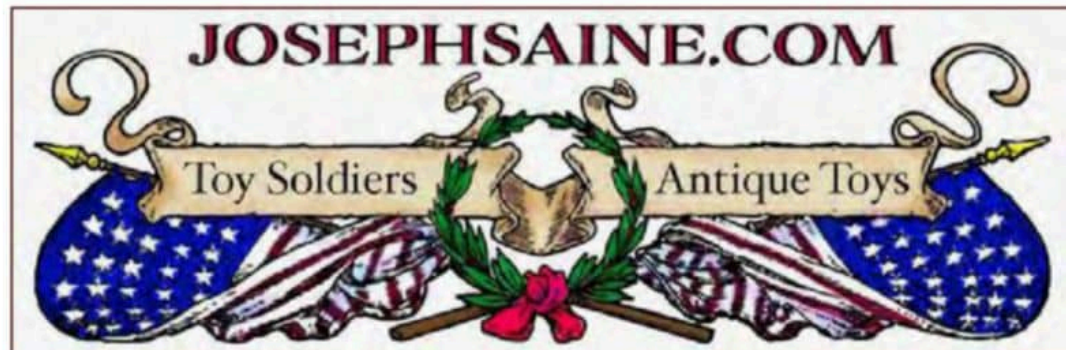
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Patrick Adams holds court at a UK toy soldier show. (Photo by Stuart A. Hessney)

Patrick Adams Tribute

Editor Stuart A. Hessney pens a fond farewell to the toy soldier maker.

Text: Stuart A. Hessney

Photos: Various Sources

Patrick Adams, a stalwart of the toy soldier and model figure hobby, passed away on Sunday, 11 February, following a long illness. The funeral was held Tuesday, 5 March.

He operated The British Toy Soldier Company for a couple of decades in conjunction with his wife Chris. The gregarious gentleman was a friendly fixture at hobby shows on both sides of the pond.

His avid collecting of traditional-style metal toy soldiers led to Patrick becoming a maker who enjoyed orchestrating production of everything from World War I and World War II troops to British ceremonial figures, gunboats, hot-air balloons, personality figures, special releases inspired by his Gibraltarian heritage and more.

As well-known as Patrick became in our hobby's relatively small world, what many toy soldier collectors might not know is that he is regarded as a charming legend of the worldwide mountain bike scene who counted Olympians and Tour de France stars among his friends and rubbed shoulders with royalty. He got involved in cycling by serving as a soigneur with Team Raleigh and Team GB in the early 1990s.

Starting in 1998, Patrick had a profound effect on cycling by pioneering the 24-hour mountain bike race scene and later trail running races. His enthusiasm was instrumental in promoting the Red Bull sports drink to the cycling world and arranging its sponsorship of events for the benefit of both serious competitors and recreational riders.

In recent years, Patrick enjoyed devoting to more time to his enthusiasm for dreaming up new toy soldier items in conjunction with Chris, while leaving organising sports events to her son Alex. Chipps Chippendale, editor at large of *Singletrack World Magazine*, aptly commented online, "The world is a poorer place without Patrick Adams, but it's a world that has been made better by his ideas, passion and love."

I wholeheartedly agree. Our sincere condolences to all of Patrick's loved ones and many friends.



The 'Pat-shake' at the end of a 24-hour race made all the effort worthwhile for competitors. (Courtesy of *Singletrack World Magazine*)

Product guide

Step by Step



Tutorial

Gold NMM Armor

This Step-by-Step shows how to paint a golden armor with a Non-Metallic-Metal mixed technique, consisting of both airbrush and brush.

By Jose Gonzalez



- 1 First, we apply a base coat of English Uniform 70.921 across the whole surface of the armor. This layer should be as homogeneous as possible.



- 2 Using English Uniform 70.921 and Japanese Uniform 70.923 mixed in equal parts, we paint everything except the deep shadow areas.



- 3 We use the airbrush to add highlights using Japanese Uniform 70.923, reducing the area covered with each pass and adding some bright points to simulate the reflections on the gold.



- 4 We airbrush Japanese Uniform 70.923 and Golden Yellow 70.984 mixed in equal parts to enhance the highlights made in the previous step, again reducing the size of the area covered in the previous step.



- 5 Using the same mixture as in the previous step, we outline all the edges of the golden parts, defining the shapes of the armor.



- 6 We outline the edges of the highlighted areas with Golden Yellow 70.948 and Ice Yellow 70.858 mixed in equal parts. We also emphasize the reflections and add texture and scratches to the golden parts.



- 7 To simulate the brightness of the gold, we repeat the previous step using Ivory 70.918, but again reducing the size of the area thus highlighted.




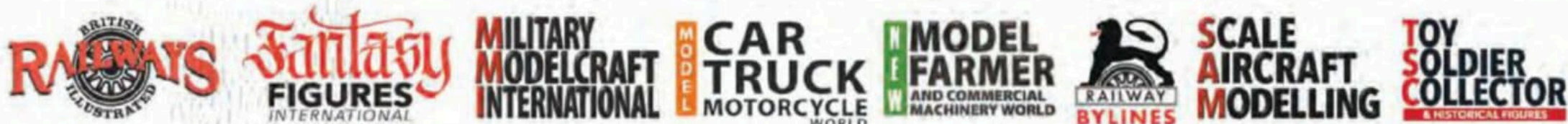
- 8 We apply a glaze with Orange Fire 72.008 in the areas of shadow to increase the contrast. We also glaze some areas where the armor plates meet with Blue Green 70.808 to simulate the verdigris. Finally, we paint the other parts of the miniature to see the final result.

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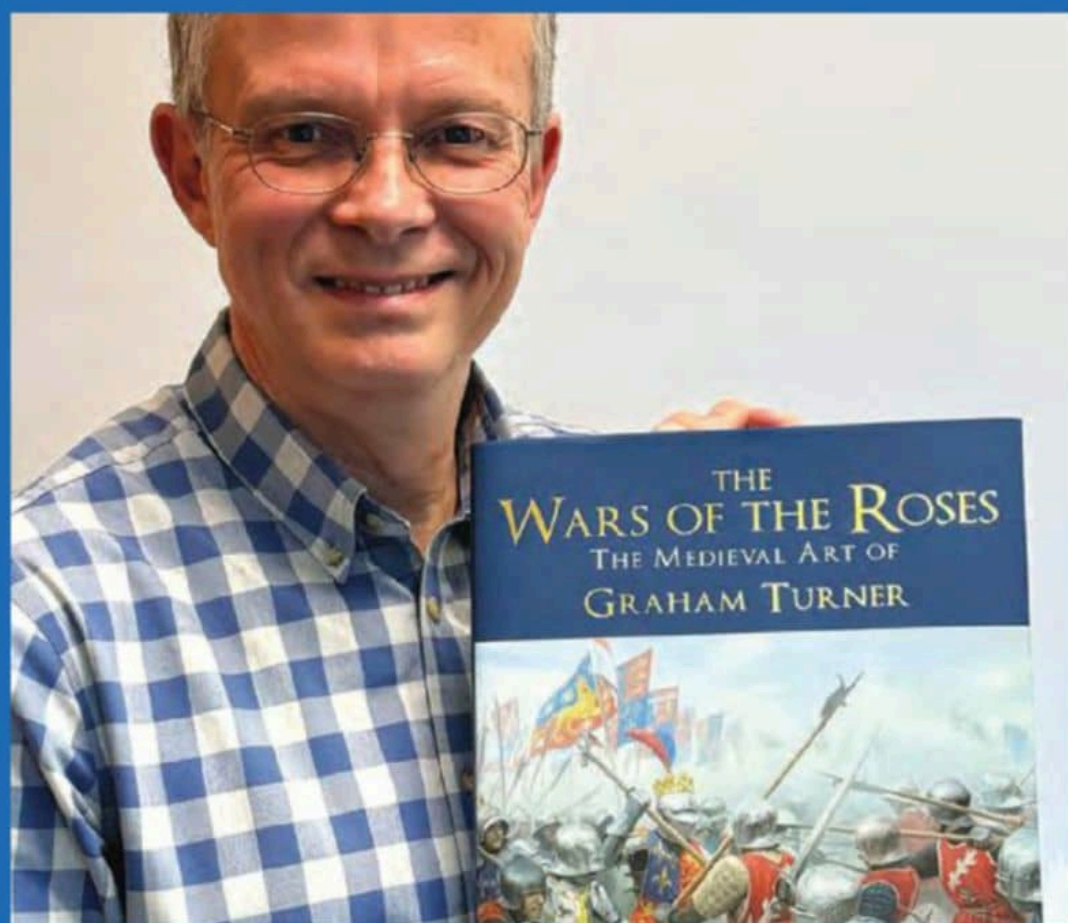


Coming Next Time in Issue 117 of *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures*



D-DAY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

The **TSC&HF** team will mobilise to commemorate the milestone 80th anniversary of the World War II Allies' amphibious invasion of German-occupied Normandy on 6 June 1944.



OSPREY ARTIST GRAHAM TURNER

David Grummitt plans to interview Graham Turner, who has been the artist for many Osprey Publishing books, about how artwork can inspire both toy soldier and model figure makers and enthusiasts.



CE102

KING & COUNTRY'S

Blues & Royals



CE101

The Blues and Royals provide one half of the men and horses of *The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment*, the unique and colourful mounted escort for Britain's monarch at many State and Ceremonial occasions throughout the year.

The two newest figures for KING & COUNTRY'S 'Ceremonial' series portrays *H.R.H. The Princess Royal* in the uniform of the Honorary Colonel of the Blues and Royals together with the Regiment's own magnificent Drumhorse 'Horatius'.

CE097



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Both figures are welcome additions to this eye-catching series. Also on display here is K&C's historic 'Edinburgh Castle Gateway'... the perfect backdrop for any parade - large or small.

CE107



SP125(SE)

'Edinburgh Castle Gateway'



TREEFROG TREASURES

Here at *Treefrog Treasures* we stock all of KING & COUNTRY'S many different historical series of 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-

painted figures, fighting vehicles and other display accessories in depth.

Not only do we supply collectors all over North America but also the rest of the world too!

KING & COUNTRY'S

Tomb Raiders, Tourists & Tutankhamun!

When in 1922, the lost tomb of the boy pharaoh Tutankhamun was discovered one of its most remarkable aspects was that the royal burial chambers had remained intact, undisturbed for many centuries from the attentions of legions of grave robbers.

Inside these long-hidden chambers was a wealth of priceless treasures, household objects and even a pair of the young pharaoh's personal chariots!

As the news spread outside Egypt of this amazing discovery hordes of wealthy travelers from around the globe journeyed

to *'The Land of The Nile'* to see for themselves the wonders and splendor of Ancient Egypt and its long-dead boy Pharaoh.

FACT, FICTION & FANTASY

While KING & COUNTRY is best known for its 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-painted military miniatures we also design and produce a large and expanding range of figures depicting everyday life in *The Ancient Egypt of The Pharaohs*.

A more recent addition has introduced some of the people and personalities involved in the discovery of *Tutankhamun's*

tomb as well as some of the memorable fictional characters inspired by Agatha Christie's classic *'Death On The Nile'* book and films.

To discover more details about these fascinating hand-made figurines and display items simply go to our website at:

www.kingandcountry.com

Or contact us directly at any of the addresses shown below...

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